

Hafa Adai!

NMC targets modern buildings in 2 to 3 years. **PAGE 2**

Fiji reconsiders security ties with China. **PAGE 6**

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THURSDAY, JUNE 8, 2023

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\$1

Saipan Tribune



CW-1 survey gauges 'touchback' impact

By **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**
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REPORTER

To understand any detrimental impact the CW-1 touchback provision may have on the CNMI, the CNMI Department of Labor is conducting an as-

essment survey on businesses that depend on foreign workers for their operations.

The Labor Department has launched a four-page survey to understand how the CNMI Only Transitional Worker, or CW-1, visa "touchback policy"

See CW-1 on Page 4

Hong Ye Construction workers eat lunch under a tree on the side of Chalan Antonio Apa Road near the Northern Marianas College on As Terlaje Hill after doing punch list works Wednesday for the hazard elimination project at the accident-prone intersection of Chalan Monsignor Road and Chalan Tun Antonio Apa Road. Many of the company's construction workers will be affected by the "touchback rule" that takes effect on Sept. 30, 2023.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

Disaster declaration for Rota OK'd

U.S. President Joe Biden has approved the CNMI's request for a Presidential Major Disaster Declaration for Category B (emergency protective measures), and Direct Federal Assistance to further support the Commonwealth's disaster re-



Biden

sponse and recovery efforts following Typhoon Mawar.

This declaration is in addition to the earlier Biden declaration, which was a pre-landfall emergency declaration. This earlier, pre-landfall emergency declaration was made on May 23, 2023.

According to the White

See DISASTER on Page 4



Chamber supports including PH in Guam-CNMI Visa Waiver Program

By **MARK RABAGO**
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce supports including the Philippines

SAIPAN Chamber of Commerce Tourism and Commerce Committee chair Alex Sablan delivers his committee report during yesterday's General Membership Meeting at the Kensington Hotel Saipan.

on the list of countries that are being proposed for the Guam-CNMI Visa Waiver Program.

"There is an ongoing effort by Guam and the CNMI to look at the idea of adding to our CNMI-Guam Visa Waiver Program the country of the Philippines. It makes a lot of sense, I guess, for all of us. Guam has a large Filipino population and we have a large Filipino population.

See CHAMBER on Page 4

'TOUCHBACK' COUNTDOWN
Days until
'touchback rule'
takes effect on
Sept. 30, 2023:
114

Japan, Australia, US to fund undersea cable in Micronesia to counter China's influence

By **MARI YAMAGUCHI**
ASSOCIATED PRESS

TOKYO (AP)—Japan an-

nounced Tuesday that it joined the United States and Australia in signing an agreement on a \$95 million undersea cable

project that will connect East Micronesia island nations to improve networks in the Indo-Pacific region where China

is increasingly expanding its influence.

The approximately 2,250-kilometer (1,400-mile) undersea cable will connect the state of Kosrae in the Federated States of Micronesia, Tarawa in Kiri-

See JAPAN on Page 4

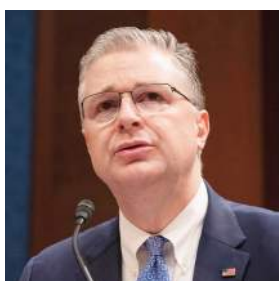
INSIDE



BUSINESS

Bravo Kitchen & Bar shifts its focus to attracting the lunch crowd on the weekends.

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ASIA

Diplomats from China and the United States agree to keep lines of communication open.

PAGE 13



LIFE & STYLE

France's abbey of Mont-Saint-Michel reaches 1,000 years since the laying of its first stone.

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Local

NMC targets modern buildings in two to three years

» More NMC projects in the pipeline

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Northern Marianas College is targeting to complete by 2025 the construction of three modern buildings, plus two modern classrooms by 2026, according to Frankie Eliptico, NMC's vice president of administration and advancement.

Speaking at the House Ways and Means Committee hearing on NMC's proposed 2024 budget, Eliptico said Monday that the target completion date for the NMC Student Center is September 2025. The college aims to finish work on the Cooperative Research, Extension, and Education Services Building by December 2025, and is targeting a November 2025

deadline to finish the Workforce Development Building. For the two classrooms, NMC is looking at completing them in September 2026.

Other projects in the pipeline are the Healthcare Training Center, the gymnasium, parking structure, and the Dandan revitalization project, Eliptico said.

"We are trying to revitalize the entire corridor, the right-of-way corridor between the Northern Marianas College and

the Shell gas station," he said, adding that they also have other facilities that are in the works.

When Super Typhoon Yutu slammed Saipan in 2018, NMC lost 37 of its 39 classrooms in just one night. Eliptico said there was severe damage to all of their computer labs, some buildings, cafeteria, bookstore, CREES building and their gym.

"So that forced us to kind of step back and say, 'Are we going to rebuild these build-

ings or are we going to start anew?'" he said.

Eliptico said they decided just to level most of NMC and take into consideration what would they do on a brand-new campus. He said they emphasized three different things—first is technology, second is an accessible campus, and third is energy efficiency.

They then came up with a master plan that the Board of Regents approved, he said.

"The college has gone out in a very aggressive grant-seeking campaign and we have successfully obtained grants," he said.

Eliptico said they had many rejections with their grant applications in the last three years, but they got a few "big yeses." This takes the burden off the CNMI government to rebuild the CNMI community college, he said.

For the Students Center, NMC has now finished the architecture and engineering design part and they are hoping to go into the construction phase in the next several weeks. The Students Center building project is funded by the U.S. Department of Education and the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

"The approval from FEMA—as some of you know that have dealt with FEMA—that's not an easy process all the time and our board is very encouraging in each step of the way," he said. "We're working hard and hopefully we are getting that approval in the next couple of days from FEMA."

He underscored the need to design spaces for students to want to be on campus. He said NMC is a former hospital so they didn't have those spaces that were open and served as an oasis to students and community members. Eliptico said there will be a performance quad at the Student Center, where they can host the Taste of the Marianas and other big community events one day.

For CREES, Eliptico said, they are going to get a brand-new building because their buildings, offices, and aquaculture facilities were destroyed by both Soudelor and Yutu typhoons. He said they are putting CREES on a very prominent section of the campus and will get a wonderful two-story building.

Just this past week, he said, the Board of Regents approved the 30% phase of the A&E for the CREES building. That's a milestone, he said, because once they pass the A&E, it's just filling in all the electrical and all the other things that go inside the building.

With respect to the Workforce Development Building, Eliptico said this is U.S. Economic Development Administration-funded project that will provide space for the nursing program, the business program, as well as Community Development Institute, and CNMI Small Business Development Center Network.

"We are now in the A&E phase," he said, adding that they are hoping to get to the 30% phase of the A&E part quickly.

The Workforce Development Building will be situated across Comfort Homes.

As for the two classrooms project, Eliptico said this is funded by the U.S. Department of Housing Community Development's Community Block Grant-Disaster Recovery program and administered by the Northern Marianas Housing Corp.

He said one classroom is going to be situated right next to the Workforce Development Building, while the second classroom is going to be built on the other side of the campus near a restaurant. Eliptico said it's not going to be the typical four walls classroom, but adaptable.

"They're not just going to be in-person. They're going to be in-person and online and hybrid and utilizing all types of modalities to make sure that we are a technologically-enhanced campus," he pointed out.

He said some spaces will open up into three or four classrooms or they will be able to divide them.



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Robert.torres@rttlawgroup.com

Attorney for Petitioner: Barbara Reyes for
Creditor/Claimant Marianas Public Land Trust

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF

ROGER WILLIAM SN. TALSACAN, Decedent.

CIVIL ACTION NO. 23-0090

NOTICE OF HEARING ON PETITION FOR LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION, AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS

**DATE: June 29, 2023
TIME: 10:00 am
JUDGE: Joseph M. Camacho**

TO: THE GENERAL PUBLIC, ANY HEIRS, CLAIMANTS, OR CREDITORS OF THE LATE ROGER WILLIAM SN. TALSACAN OF HIS ESTATE:

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Barbara Reyes of Saipan, CNMI ("Petitioner") has petitioned the Superior Court of Northern Marianas Islands to Admit the Estate of **Roger William SN. Talsacan**, the deceased to Probate, for Letters of Administration of the Estate and appointment of **Pualani Fujihira Talsacan** as a proposed Administratrix of the Estate. The attorney for Petitioner is Robert T. Torres, Attorney at Law, whose address is 5960 Plata Drive, Whispering Palms (Chalan Kiya) P.O. Box 500730, Saipan, MP 96950.

The hearing on the Petition for Letters of Administration by Barbara Reyes, as Petitioner and to appoint Pualani Fujihira Talsacan as the proposed Administratrix, is scheduled to be heard on the date at the time set forth above at the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands, Guma' Hustisia, Civic Center, Saipan. All interested persons and entities should appear at the hearing.

Any and all persons, creditors, or entities having claims against the deceased, or his estate are hereby required by the law to file their claims with the Clerk of Court within sixty (60) days of this publication, or claim(s) will be barred. A copy of your claims should also be sent to **ROBERT T. TORRES**, Attorney at Law, at the address hereinabove indicated.

Respectfully submitted this 22nd day of May 2023.

/s/ _____
CLERK OF COURT/DEPUTY CLERK

PET OF THE WEEK**Fozzie Bear, Nugget, and Goldie**

Fozzie Bear is an 8-week-old healthy little man who is in foster home with his toddler humans, dogs, and cats. He is confident, friendly, and loves giving kisses.

Nugget is a little 5-week-old female who was separated from her family and is in foster family with Fozzie Bear.

Goldie, on the other hand, is a friendly and sweet fluffy 8-month-old female who loves people and loves cuddles.

Goldie is available for adoption at the Saipan Mayor's Office Animal Shelter in As Perdido, while Fozzie Bear and Nugget are in a foster home. Shelter hours are from Monday to Friday, 7:30am to 4:30pm. Contact them if you are interested in any of these cute pets of the week at (670)-234-3647 (DOGS).

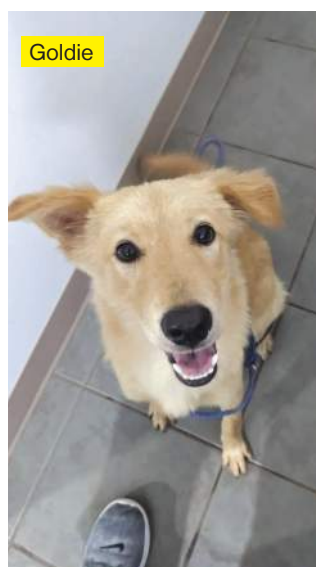
For inquiries about veterinary services reach out



Fozzie Bear



Nugget



Goldie

to Saipan Humane Society at info@saipanhumanesociety.org or Whatsapp +1 (670) 838-7387.

Saipan Tribune is partnering with Lauren Cabrera, founder of the Saipan Humane Society, in collaboration with

the SMO Animal Shelter in As Perdido, to feature their adoptable dogs into loving homes. Whether you are

looking for a guard dog, lap dog, hiking buddy, or playful puppy, they most likely have the dog for you!

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2016 TOYOTA PRIUS STK: 22M257A SALE PRICE \$13,995 \$105 PER PAYCHECK		2016 BUICK VERANO STK: 17P505 SALE PRICE \$17,995 \$168 PER PAYCHECK		2017 FORD MUSTANG STK: 17HS1036 SALE PRICE \$19,995 \$150 PER PAYCHECK	
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2017 MAZDA6 STK: 17P341 SALE PRICE \$16,995 \$127 PER PAYCHECK		2016 HONDA CIVIC STK: 21H068A SALE PRICE \$18,995 \$141 PER PAYCHECK		2016 MITSUBISHI OUTLANDER STK: 22H219A SALE PRICE \$19,995 \$150 PER PAYCHECK	
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CNMI community fills container with Mawar relief goods



The government-led initiative to fill a 40-foot container with relief goods for Typhoon Mawar victims in Guam was a resounding success, with community members filling it up yesterday afternoon.

KIMBERLY B. ESMORES

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The government-led initiative to send a 40-foot container filled with relief goods to Typhoon Mawar victims in Guam was a success, with members of the CNMI community officially filling the container yesterday afternoon.

According to Department of Corrections Commissioner Anthony Torres, who pitched the idea to various government agencies last week, the container was filled up yesterday afternoon and will be shipped out today and will hopefully arrive in Guam sometime next week.

The donation drive was held at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe.

The initiative was even more successful than he had anticipated, with community members and various organizations donating so much that a

second 40-foot container was needed.

Torres said the relief drive has been extended to next week Monday to give other organizations and community members time to donate and possibly fill the second container by next week.

Saipan Tribune learned that among the things donated were pallets of water, clothing, beddings, baby food, formula, diapers, non-perishable food items, butane canisters, lighters, and so much more.

Torres said the container will be received by Mayor Jesse L.G. Alig of the municipality of Piti, Guam. Alig will be in charge of distributing the goods to different municipalities in Guam.

DOC, in collaboration with the offices of the Governor and Lt. Governor, Department of Public Safety, Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services, CNMI Legislature, and the Saipan Mayor's Office launched the relief drive for victims of Typhoon Mawar.

JAPAN

From Page 1

bati and Nauru to the existing cable landing point located in Pohnpei in Micronesia, according to the Japanese Foreign Ministry.

Japan, the United States and Australia have stepped up cooperation with the Pacific Islands, apparently to counter efforts by Beijing to expand its security and economic influence in the region.

In a joint statement, the parties said the next steps involve a final survey and design and manufacturing of the cable, whose width is about that of a garden hose. Completion is expected around 2025.

The announcement comes just over two weeks after leaders of the Quad, a security alliance of Japan, the United States, Australia and India, emphasized the importance of undersea cables as a critical compo-

nent of communications infrastructure and the foundation for internet connectivity.

"Secure and resilient digital connectivity has never been more important," Matthew Murray, a senior official in the U.S. State Department's Bureau of East Asian and Pacific Affairs, said in a statement. "The United States is delighted to be part of this project bringing our region closer together."

NEC Corp., which won the contract after a competitive tender, said the cable will ensure high-speed, high-quality and more secure communications for residents, businesses and governments in the region, while contributing to improved digital connectivity and economic development.

The cable will connect more than 100,000 people across the three Pacific countries, according to Kazuya Endo, director general of the international cooperation bureau at the Japanese Foreign Ministry.

DISASTER

From Page 1

House, "The President's action makes federal funding available to Commonwealth and eligible local governments and certain private non-profit organizations on a cost-sharing basis for emergency protective measures, including direct federal assistance, for the island of Rota."

Gov. Arnold I. Palacios thanked Biden, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, and the Federal Emergency Management Agency for approving the CNMI's request for a major disaster declaration. "This declaration will aid the Commonwealth's response and recovery for Rota following the effects of Typhoon Mawar," he added.

Palacios signed the request for a Major Disaster Declaration on May

30, 2023 in consultation with the CNMI's Homeland Security and Emergency Management Office. Benigno B. Ruiz of FEMA has been appointed to coordinate federal recovery operations in the affected areas.

"Damage assessments are continuing, and additional areas and forms of assistance may be designated after the assessments are fully completed," the White House announcement stated. (PR)

CHAMBER

From Page 1

I think, you know, the issue of going from point A to point B and back—from a tourism standpoint, from an employer standpoint, from an employee's [standpoint], from a medical standpoint—it makes all the sense in the world. ... So we'd like to jump onboard with Gov. Lou Leon Guerrero, who's advocating for this," said Chamber board of director Alex Sablan, who chairs the business group's Tourism and Commerce Committee during yesterday's General Membership Meeting at the Kensington Hotel Saipan.

He said the Chamber already had discussions with Guam Sen. William Parkinson, who introduced Senate Resolution 14-37 that "urges Gov. Lou Leon Guerrero to petition the Department of Homeland Security to add Filipinos within the list of Guam-only visa-free travel."

"We'd like to continue the conversation with our governor and our leaders and so that's something we'd like to bring to [Washington,] D.C. as a conversation piece. And again, we're hopeful that we can continue

to collaborate with the administration and collaborate with [Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan]," he added.

Postponed DC trip

As for the planned trip to Washington, D.C., Alex Sablan said the Chamber had to postpone it to late June or early July due to Typhoon Mawar.

He reiterated the need to rally support to delay by three years the "touchback provision" of the Northern Marianas Islands U.S. Workforce Act (Public Law 115-218).

"It's tough to have a conversation about lobbying or the idea of continuing CW workforce efforts whenever we have a lot of unemployed individuals in the Commonwealth, but the numbers don't lie," he said.

At the height of the local economy, the CNMI had 27,000 workers, with 16,000 U.S. citizens-eligible workers, Alex Sablan said.

"We want to see the numbers go up. We need a strong CW-1 workforce, along with a strong U.S. citizen workforce. ... Quite frankly, that balance has been somewhere in the neighborhood of mid-50% for U.S. citizen workforce and mid-40% for CW, so that strikes the balance in the Commonwealth. Whether we'll

see 27,000 workers in the Commonwealth going forward remains to be seen," he said.

Alex Sablan also said the delay in the touchback provision is not an immigration issue.

"We're advocating more for commerce. We're really not focused on the immigration aspect of this. This is about the survival of our economy. I know it is a tough juggling act for many of us in this sector. ...," he said.

While understanding the Department of Labor's effort to prioritize U.S. citizens in the workforce, he said there's also a need to focus on the numbers game in the sense that the CNMI will have a total workforce, which includes a healthy balance of CW-1 workers, especially as it pertains to the construction industry.

"We are pushing the effort to communicate with our delegate... Kilili. We have a meeting sometime this week. We're hoping that the [Chamber] board of directors [is] able to vocalize our issues related to the workforce. We have nearly \$2 billion in development coming so we need 3,000 construction workers as a prime example. An H-2B is not the answer for our construction efforts in this region," said Alex Sablan.

CW-1

From Page 1

is affecting businesses in the region.

According to DOL, the survey is intended to gather essential information about the impact of the "touchback" policy on businesses, including the number of affected employees, the positions they hold, anticipated departure months, and other relevant information.

"The survey aims to identify challenges faced by businesses, assess the potential disruptions in operations, and explore strategies to mitigate the adverse effects of this requirement," said DOL.

Ultimately the feedback received from this survey will help inform CNMI DOL efforts to address the concerns and needs of businesses during this transition period.

For those interested in participating in the survey, it is accessible at: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfHJCNRKVBS_gq2arXSRyyU1cXFIHSQittQfFWx1GH-gLwf3rQ/viewform

DOL noted in its survey that, according to the amended CW-1

touchback provision, a permit for a CW-1 worker shall remain valid for a period that may not exceed one year and may be renewed for not more than two consecutive, one-year periods.

At the expiration of the second renewal period, an alien will have to exit the CNMI for a continuous period of at least 30 days prior to the submission of a renewal petition on his or her behalf. This exit requirement is the "touchback" provision.

However, long-term workers—an alien who was admitted to the Commonwealth on a CW-1 visa during fiscal year 2015, and during every subsequent fiscal year beginning before July 24, 2018—are an exemption and may receive a permit for a Commonwealth-Only Transitional Worker that is valid for a period that may not exceed three years and may be renewed for additional three-year periods. They are not subject to the touchback policy.

The touchback provision was supposed to be enforced in 2020; however, due to unforeseen circumstances as a result of the pandemic, the provision has been extended and will be enforced this year.



Congratulations

GCA CLASS OF 2023



*But those who trust in the Lord will find new strength.
They will soar high on wings like eagles. They will run and not grow weary.
They will walk and not faint. — Isaiah 40:31*

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| ■ Dominican University | ■ Oklahoma State University | ■ University of Queens |
| ■ Edinboro University | ■ Purdue University | ■ University of Dubuque |
| ■ Embry Riddle Aeronautical University | ■ Saint Michael's College | ■ University of North Dakota |
| ■ Elizabethtown College | ■ Sewanee University | ■ University of Richmond |
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EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) Judiciary is seeking a highly motivated individual for the position of:

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Announcement # JVA23-019
SAIPAN

DUTIES: The Mental Health Treatment Coordinator position will work under general supervision of the Presiding Judge and will work under the direct supervision of the designated Mental Health Court Judge and the Mental Health Court Manager. This position will be responsible for providing support and coordination to individuals with mental health and co-occurring substance use issues who are involved in the Mental Health Court program. The duties of this position include, but are not limited to the following:

- Coordinate treatment services for program participant, including arranging for assessments, referrals to treatment providers as needed, and coordinating the delivery of mental health and substance use services;
- Ensure program participants receive the necessary treatment, medication management, and other services as needed;
- Monitor participant's progress throughout the program conducting regular check-ins with participants to assess progress and meet with treatment providers to discuss treatment plan adjustments as needed;
- Serve as a liaison between program participants, treatment providers, court personnel, and other stakeholders to facilitate effective communication and collaboration among all parties involved in the program;
- Conduct initial and ongoing assessments of program participants to determine their treatment needs and progress, and work closely with treatment providers to develop and implement individualized treatment plans;
- Review participant's medical records and conduct assessment to assess their needs;
- Provide ongoing support and advocacy to program participants as needed;
- Manage program-related data, including maintaining accurate records of participant's treatment progress, preparing reports, and ensuring compliance with program guidelines and regulations;
- Collaborate with community stakeholders and treatment providers to ensure program participants have access to a wide range of mental health and substance use services and resources;
- Build relationships with stakeholders and treatment providers, attending meetings and conferences, and developing partnerships to increase access to services and resources for program participants;
- Participate in weekly court meetings and report relevant treatment information, such as 2 participant progress and treatment plan updates to ensure that program requirements are being met;
- Perform other programmatic duties as assigned including preparing program materials, conducting program evaluations, and assisting with the development of program policies and procedures; and
- Performs other duties as assigned.

QUALIFICATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS: The Mental Health Treatment Coordinator must have a high school diploma or equivalent AND must hold a bachelor's degree from an accredited U.S. university in social work, counseling, psychology, sociology, criminal justice, judicial administration, or related field. Two (2) years of experience working as a case manager, counselor, or coordinator of related services is preferred. Preference will be given to candidates with experience or background in Mental Health related field.

Must be proficient using a personal computer, including Microsoft Office software suite, possess excellent written and oral communication skills, and be able to work individually and as part of a team.

Must have the ability to maintain and control sensitive and confidential information, maintain records professionally, and uphold office policies. Must be proficient with the use of general office software including but not limited to Microsoft Word and Excel. Must have a valid CNMI driver's license and be operate to operate a court vehicle.

Candidate must provide current police and traffic clearances and proof of eligibility to work in the CNMI. Must have a valid drivers' license and operate a court vehicle. Applicants given a conditional offer of employment with the CNMI Judiciary will be required to submit to urinalysis to screen for the illegal use of drugs prior to employment. "Illegal drug" means a substance whose use or possession is controlled by federal law but that is not being used or possessed under the supervision of a licensed health care professional. (Controlled substances are listed in Schedules I-V of 21 C.F.R. Part 1308.)

Education completed in foreign colleges or universities may be used to meet the job qualification requirements if the applicant can show that foreign education is comparable to education received in accredited educational institutions in the United States.

It is the responsibility of the applicant to provide such evidence when applying for Judiciary jobs. Education received in foreign colleges or universities will be considered if the candidate submits an evaluation of the coursework from: (a) an accredited U.S. college or university; or (b) a private professional organization specializing in interpretation of foreign educational credentials.1

COMPENSATION AND TENURE: This is an ungraded position appointed and serves at the pleasure of the Presiding Judge. The salary range will be \$45,000 - \$50,000 annually.

INTERESTED PERSONS PERSONS Application forms are available at the Judiciary Administrative Office at the Guma Hustisia/Iimwal Aweewe/House of Justice in Susupe, or at the Superior Court offices at Kotten Tinian on Tinian and Centron Hustisia on Rota during normal business hours except on weekends and holidays. Completed applications, cover letter, and three references should be submitted to:

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Cell. (670) 783-8592
Fax. (670) 236-9702
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(d) International Consultants of Delaware, Inc. 914 Pickett Lane Newark, DE 19711
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While the Judiciary offers these addresses as information to applicants who request assistance in obtaining an evaluation of foreign education, these services are not preferred over others which may exist.

Fiji reconsiders security ties with China

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AP)—Fiji's leader indicated Wednesday his nation is reconsidering its security ties with China at a time that geopolitical tensions in the Pacific are rising.

Prime Minister Sitiveni Rabuka said Fiji was reviewing a contentious police cooperation agreement it signed with China in 2011 that has allowed Chinese police officers to be stationed in Fiji.

At one point during a news conference in Wellington with his New Zealand counterpart Chris Hipkins, Rabuka appeared to go one step further by referring to Fiji's "discontinuation" of the agreement.

"If our systems and our values differ, what cooperation can we get from them?" Rabuka said, referring to China.

"We need to look at that again before we decide whether we go back to it, or if we continue the way that we have in the past by cooperating with those who have similar democratic values and systems."

Rabuka said Fiji was finalizing a defense agreement with New Zealand, which it expected to complete next week. He said the new agreement would allow Fiji's military to build its capacity and skill and be exposed to new technologies.

He said there has been a lot of geopolitical focus on the region, but that Pacific countries only worry about militarization "when diplomacy and common neighborly discussions fail."

Fiji expanded its policing agreement with China in 2013 to include some military cooperation, but Rabuka on

Wednesday didn't directly address that arrangement.

China has previously said the security agreements have benefited Fiji and it hopes to continue the collaboration.

Rabuka won a tense election in December over Frank Bainimarama, who had held power in Fiji for 16 years. Rabuka has moved since then to distance himself from some of Bainimarama's policies, including moves to forge closer ties with China.

Meanwhile, Bainimarama and former Police Commissioner Sitiveni Qiliho, who oversaw the China policing agreement, now face criminal charges of abusing their power, as does former Attorney-General Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum, who was widely seen as Bainimarama's right-hand man.



COMMONWEALTH JUDICIARY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

Guma' Hustisia / Iimwal Aweewe / House of Justice
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for
ASSOCIATE JUDGE WESLEY M. BOGDAN
Announcement # JVA23-018

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- Reviews, studies, searches, and annotates laws, court decisions, documents, opinions, briefs and related legal authorities;
- Researches the law for oral motions made during trials;
- Prepares briefs, legal memoranda, orders and judgments for review by the Judge, including appropriate suggestions or recommendations to the Judge;
- Prepares jury instructions;
- Compiles references on laws and decisions necessary for legal determinations;
- Confers with the Judge concerning legal questions, construction of documents and granting of orders;
- Attends court proceedings to hear oral arguments and record necessary case information;
- Participates in various Judiciary Committees, as directed by the Judge;
- Assists with any specialty courts the Judge may be designated to (Associate Judge Kim-Tenorio is currently designated to the Family Court and the Drug Court); and
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QUALIFICATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS: The Law Clerk must have a law degree from an ABA approved law school and be able to work both independently as well as with others. Strong legal research and writing skills are essential.

Keen legal analysis skills; strong writing skills with an excellent grasp of grammar and punctuation; proficient in operating a personal computer and working with MS Word and Adobe Acrobat; and impeccable organizational skills. Must have the ability to maintain and control sensitive and confidential information, maintain records professionally, and uphold office policies.

Candidate must provide current police and traffic clearances and proof of eligibility to work in the CNMI. Must have a valid drivers' license and operate a court vehicle. Applicants given a conditional offer of employment with the CNMI Judiciary will be required to submit to urinalysis to screen for the illegal use of drugs prior to employment. "Illegal drug" means a substance whose use or possession is controlled by 2 federal law but that is not being used or possessed under the supervision of a licensed health care professional. (Controlled substances are listed in Schedules I-V of 21 C.F.R. Part 1308.)

Candidates should be available to start on August 28, 2023.

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DFEMS hosts boot drive for Guam Fire Department

By **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Department of Fire & Emergency Medical Services hosted a Boot Drive and Food Drive outside the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe yesterday to benefit fire personnel on Rota and Guam.

According to acting DFEMS Commissioner Juan A. Pua, the Boot Drive was intended to raise money for the Guam Fire Department and the food drive was for DFEMS personnel

stationed on Rota. He said the drive was intended to show their support for the neighboring fire departments that were affected by Typhoon Mawar.

For the Boot Drive, DFEMS collected money for the Guam Fire Department "because they have assisted us in the past typhoons that hit us. It's for us to show comradery with our brother's and sisters [in] Guam and to let them know that we're here and we've been in the same situation, so we understand," Pua said.

The department did a Food

Drive for DFEMS personnel on because "...we have to do something to help them out on Rota," Pua added.

Aside from the Food Drive, DFEMS has also sent out six personnel from Saipan to Rota to assist in operations. The personnel returned last week.

"We deployed six personnel to Rota to augment and assist in operations at the Rota Fire Department during the recovery phase because our guys on Rota have been working almost 24 hours. We decided to send some personnel out to give them a

break and to give them time with their families and work on their own recovery. The men have since returned," said the acting fire chief.

While on Rota, Pua said the officers helped clear debris and offload cargo on top of regular shift duties.

DFEMS has also partnered

with other government agencies to fill up a 40-foot container that will be shipped out to Guam this week to help victims of Typhoon Mawar.

SBA implements law that enhances ability to declare disasters and support for rural areas

WASHINGTON, D.C.—U.S. Small Business Administration administrator Isabella Casillas Guzman announced yesterday the full implementation of the Disaster Assistance for Rural Communities Act, authored by Sens. James Risch (R-ID) and Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH). Rural communities often face more severe impacts from natural disasters due to limited access to resources and infrastructure, which limits a community's ability to recover and avert long-lasting economic hardship. The new law, signed by President Joe Biden on Dec. 20, 2022, authorizes the SBA to remove burdensome requirements for declaring disasters in rural communities.

"Small businesses are especially vital in our nation's rural communities, and we must have effective tools to rapidly help them and the neighborhoods they serve recover when disaster strikes," said Guzman. "With SBA's implementation of the Rural Communities Act...we have cut red tape and simpli-

fied the process for [an SBA] disaster declaration, which allows us to more quickly provide affordable disaster loans and assistance to rural entrepreneurs, homeowners, renters and non-profits so they can rebuild and thrive once more."

The law authorizes the SBA to simplify the process for a governor or tribal government chief executive to request an agency disaster declaration in counties with rural communities that have experienced significant damage. With the agency declaration, SBA is able to provide disaster assistance, including low-interest loans to individual renters and homeowners as well as non-profit and for-profit businesses. Prior to the Act, the SBA could make an agency declaration based on damage to at least 25 homes, businesses or other eligible institutions, but now a declaration can be made with only one damaged property in a rural area when the county has received a major disaster declaration from the President for Public Assistance.

"After the signing of this legislation, the SBA moved quickly to ensure all the key elements were in place for the start of the 2023 hurricane season. Effective today, we are ready to further assist rural communities in the aftermath of disasters," said Francisco Sánchez, Jr., associate administrator, SBA Office of Disaster Recovery and Resilience. "With a request from a governor or chief executive of a tribal government, SBA may issue a declaration that will allow SBA to activate all of its disaster loans and relief programs to disaster survivors."

Under the Biden administration, the SBA has placed greater emphasis on helping small businesses, homeowners, renters, private nonprofits, and communities prepare for, build resilience to, and recover from the tremendous physical and financial impacts of climate change. Since January 2021, SBA has supported federal response efforts and approved over \$5 billion in disaster lending alone. **(SBA)**

'Proposed budget for DPS just keeps department afloat'

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Mindful of the CNMI government's precarious financial situation, what the Department of Public Safety is asking for as its next fiscal year's budget is just enough to keep the department afloat, according to DPS chief Clement R. Bermudes.

In his testimony last week before the House of Representatives' Ways and Means Committee to go over DPS' proposed budget for fiscal year 2024, Bermudes said their priorities are clearly the payroll for personnel, plus

expenses for communication, utilities, and fuel.

He said there is no form of pay increase for personnel, no specific increase in training dollars, and no investment in information and communication systems.

He emphasized, though that the CNMI also needs to invest in DPS as part of the goal of implementing 21st century policing in the department. He said DPS is technologically disadvantaged and, that in order to move forward, there is a need to invest in technologies that are seen in the U.S. mainland, such as automated cameras that track violators.

"You make a right turn on a red, there's a camera taking multiple pictures and you get a ticket in your mail," Bermudes said.

He said technologies that would actually help investigators could be installed in strategic areas on the island to ensure that vehicles or people that are running away from a crime are recorded.

The commissioner said these technologies would also connect DPS to federal law enforcements and other jurisdictions in the Pacific.

"These are the investments that we need to start now," he said.

Saipan Tribune

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Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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EDITORIAL

Solve more crimes: The NYPD clearance rates need to rise

There are many measures of how well a city promotes safety and justice: crime rates, relations between police and the community, the treatment of those jailed and more. An essential indicator that gets far too little attention is clearance rates—the percentage of offenses where cops make an arrest. And it's worrying that the NYPD rates have fallen sharply. A crime unsolved is justice undone, a victim or surviving family still treading water in a swamp of fear and disillusionment.

The more serious the crime, the more important that cops figure out who did it and courts then hold the perpetrator responsible. In 2021, there were 488 homicides, but just 56% of the homicide cases were solved, down from 64% in 2020 and 71% in 2019. In 2022, the homicide count dropped and the share of cases cleared went up, to 64%. That's progress, but it still means hundreds of people were murdered without their killer getting caught.

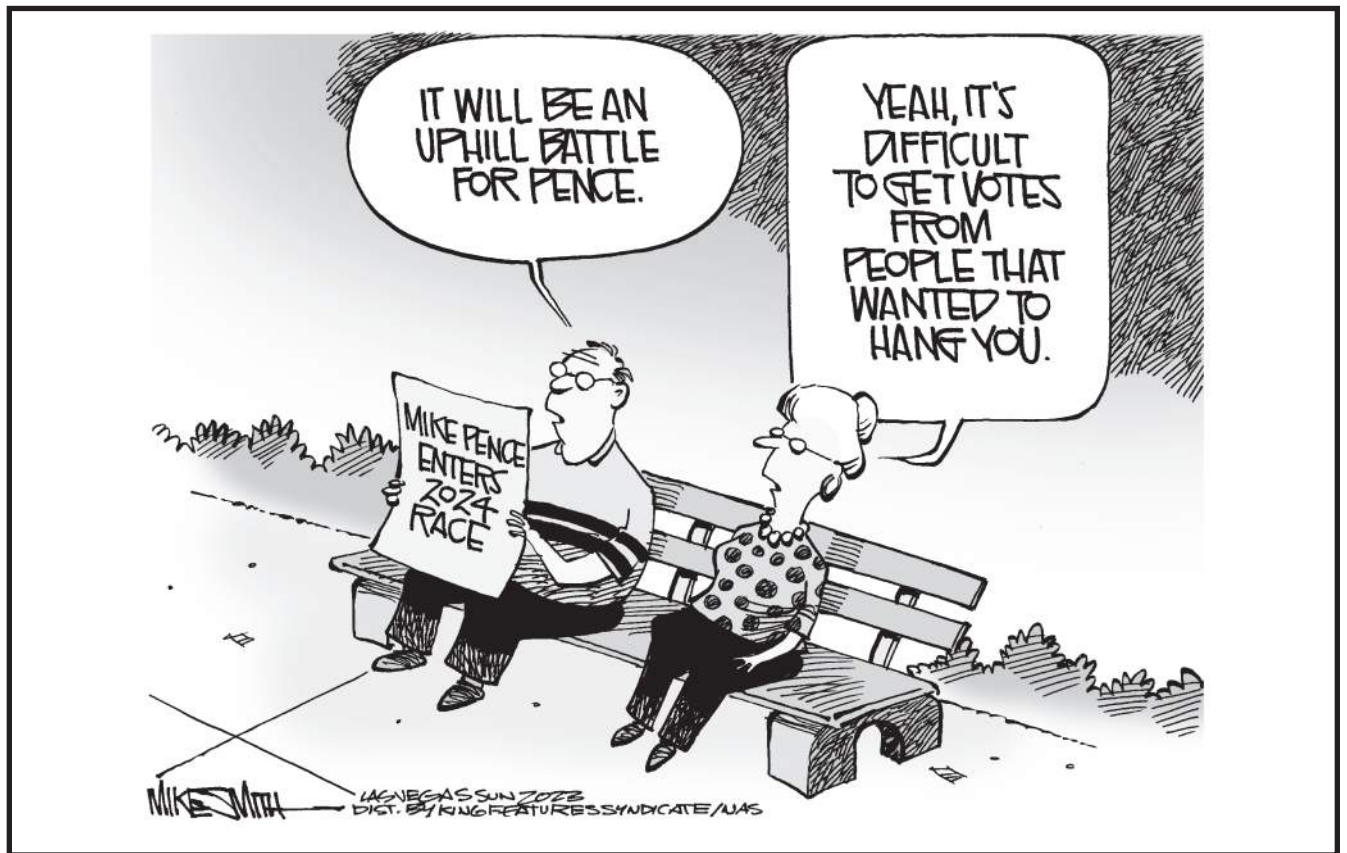
Meanwhile, 2022 clearance rates were just 43% for shootings and 29% for major crimes overall.

Behind every unsolved crime is an agonizing family like Beverly Ford, whose correction officer son John Jeff was shot and killed outside a party in Queens in August 2020. "It's been a long time, but it feels like yesterday," she told the Daily News in a profile published Monday. Or Janifer Taylor, mother of Dawn Peterson, a 39-year-old mother killed in Jamaica, Queens, in 2021. Or Natasha Christopher, mother of Akeal Chirstopher, 14, hit by a stray bullet in Brooklyn in 2012. The longer it takes, the likelier the trail of evidence and witnesses will go cold.

There is no single, simple solution here. Two obvious ones: More of those who know about unsolved crimes should come forward—anonously if they wish—by calling Crime Stoppers at 800-577-TIPS. The NYPD should bulk up its detective bureau, which has shrunk from about 7,400 in 2001 to 5,167 at present.

Solve more crimes, build more trust and bring the possibility of peace to more victims and families.

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Biden, Feinstein, Trump—how do we know when our leaders are too old?

In politics, as in life, it's all too easy to write off old people, especially when they are frail or disabled. President Joe Biden's fall on stage during the Air Force Academy graduation ceremony on Thursday immediately raised questions of fitness. Even I, a geriatrician and anti-ageism advocate, looked at Dianne Feinstein's recent return to the Senate after a prolonged absence due to shingles without fully seeing her. The voter in me felt appalled by her condition; the doctor in me wanted to get her home and comfortable.

These are normal, natural and necessary reactions. They also risk forfeiting opportunities to improve work in later life for the good of all Americans.

On the national political stage, age has increasing relevance. The 2024 presidential election currently has 76- and 80-year-old front-runners. In Congress, people are questioning the tenure of Senate majority minority leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) given his recent long absence after a geriatric fall. And we marvel at Rep. Nancy Pelosi (D-San Francisco), an octogenarian so fit that reporters decades younger have trouble keeping up with her as she races along in heels. That at least three of these leaders seem to have made efforts to appear younger speaks to our cultural equation of old age with incompetence and unattractiveness, biases that are ageist, ableist and disproved daily by millions of older adults.

Of course, age matters. With each decade, our chances of illness, new disability and death increase. A 60-year-old president could die, but the odds are higher for an 80-year-old. Similarly, a 60-year-old president could fall, but they are less likely to sustain a life-altering injury from one than an 80-year-old.

On the other hand, if we set work limits based on age alone, we risk premature loss of talent and opportunities—for individuals and society. We also exacerbate what has become a defining dilemma of our time: simultaneously demanding older workers retire and lamenting the economic burden imposed on society by unemployed elders.

One solution is to develop evidence-based guidelines that can be used to create employment standards across industries. That approach would use data and expertise from leaders in economics, geriatric medicine, gerontology and elsewhere to optimize work in older ages despite the considerable diversity in health and function across the decades of elderhood.

There are two key issues that need to be addressed to make this happen. The first is deciding when age matters. Despite more than a century of increased longevity, we don't know how to invoke age most equitably and effectively—at either end of the spectrum. Human beings are maturing later and later and are living longer and longer. This raises questions such as, at what age is a person too young or old to buy a firearm, drink alcohol, go to war, drive a car or hold political office. How we handle these issues affects us all.

The second issue we must determine before creating guidelines on age and employability is deciding who gets to participate in that process. I have spent decades thinking about old age, yet over Me-

By **LOUISE ARONSON**

Los Angeles Times

Louise Aronson is a geriatrician and professor of medicine at UC San Francisco. She is the author of *Elderhood: Redefining Aging, Transforming Medicine, Reimagining Life*.



morial Day weekend my 89-year-old mother offered an insight that I missed about Feinstein, that the senator was most likely sacrificing her dwindling well-being to fulfill her duties to office, party and country. That gave me pause: If Feinstein were 52 with terminal cancer, instead of old and frail, might I have seen her actions as heroic instead of incomprehensible?

When developing guidelines—or deciding whom to vote for—we need to consider more than a person's age. For example, how do we compare a political candidate who is prone to lying with one who might benefit from walking with a cane? Or a politician who has fallen several times without injury to one who fell once and spent months recovering?

The issue of falls illustrates another complicating factor: our societal tendency toward "adultism." We know older people fall, yet we do little to create a world that limits such falls and resulting injuries. A sandbag on a stage may not matter to adults but it might trip up an elder such as Biden, yet that has nothing to do with his ability to give a commencement speech. I have lost count of the numbers of my older patients who have fallen over the cement wheel stops that demarcate the front end of parking spaces. If children or adults were harmed by those that often, we likely would have taken action rather than blaming their age.

We will all stop working eventually, and, barring sudden death, we will all develop illness and disability before we die. Since it's virtually impossible to predict when that will happen and even whether a particular illness or injury warrants retirement, guidelines for assessing competence are needed. Right now, all we know for sure is that the absence of such recommendations causes problems. Articles detail the fallout of arbitrary retirement ages on highly skilled workers and the adverse consequences when people continue working despite evident limitations—a circumstance that may explain Feinstein's current predicament.

We are the generations that get to reap the benefits of the human race's new longevity. With that privilege comes a responsibility to evolve our ideas about aging and adapt societal norms, structures and policies to optimize work and well-being across the lifespan. In the meantime, it's worth remembering one of our favorite sayings in the geriatrics community: When you've seen one 80-year-old, you've seen one 80-year-old.

EDITORIAL POLICY

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Why Republicans love welfare work requirements

Would we really risk the catastrophe of a debt default because we think that some citizens who are receiving food stamps may not be working hard enough?

It appears that we would: One of the puzzling priorities for Republicans during negotiations over the debt ceiling increase was stricter work requirements for welfare recipients, a point that they won:

Under the new rules able-bodied adults without children who receive benefits from the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program must work or participate in a training program for at least 80 hours per month until they reach the age of 54, an increase of five years over the previous cutoff. By some estimates, this rule change may push many thousands of Americans out of the food stamp program.

The moral aspect of this change is more interesting than its financial impact, which will be minimal. Because the new rules expand food stamp access for veterans, the homeless and others, imposing more stringent work requirements may actually be a financial wash.

In fact, research cited recently by New York Times columnist Jamelle Bouie indicates that work requirements implemented a few years ago in Arkansas and Iowa had no impact on employment levels and actually cost more to administer than they produced. Their only real effect was to make it a little more difficult for hungry Americans to get something to eat.

So the appeal of work requirements arises from motives more complicated than economics.

Work requirements have moral implications. Even most tender-hearted liberals can see the theoretical logic and moral benefit

of requiring adults who receive public assistance to work at least some if they are able.

And for many conservatives, welfare recipients are tempting targets for reasons having little to do with economics. Stricter work requirements are consistent with certain values that Republicans like to claim as their own. Work requirements capitalize on the fabled image of the able-bodied but indolent welfare queen or couch potato who dines on lobster and watches TV at home all day because he can make more money on welfare than he can working.

But like all stereotypes, this one is mostly false. Welfare fraud is like election fraud. Of course it exists and measures should be taken to prevent it. But vague suspicions of imaginary fraud do not justify overturning an election or putting unnecessary and ineffective obstacles between our less privileged fellow citizens and a life of reasonable dignity.

Every decent modern country has a social safety net. This hasn't always been the case, and it still isn't in many parts of the world. You don't have to read very far into 19th century British writer Charles Dickens to encounter scenes of poverty, hunger, death, squalor and filth that are inevitable when everyone just looks out for himself.

Taking care of others is a moral obligation, but if that isn't enough of a motivation, consider the legal obligation established in our Constitution: one of the clearly stated purposes of our nation is to "...promote the General Welfare."

But the Republican passion for work requirements has another layer to it. There is considerable political capital to be gained

By **JOHN M. CRISP**

Tribune News Service

John M. Crisp, an op-ed columnist for Tribune News Service, lives in Texas and can be reached at jcrispcolumns@gmail.com.



by inciting the resentment of middle class voters against lazy welfare recipients who—the voters are told—are enjoying a luxurious life while the rest of us have to get up and go to work.

Resentment inspires passion, and grievance is always ripe for exploitation. The trick is to keep the grievance pointed in the right direction.

Which probably explains why Republicans used the debt ceiling crisis to impose more stringent work requirements on the poor but insisted on taking away from the Internal Revenue Service \$20 billion intended for better enforcement of our tax laws.

In other words, Republicans would much rather keep our attention and resentment focused on the supposed welfare cheats at the bottom than the actual tax cheats at the top.

In fact, Republicans would always rather have voters punch down than punch up.

The GOP wants us to fear 'President Harris.' Here's how Biden should respond

The first big decision a presidential nominee makes is picking a running mate. In announcing his own candidacy for the White House on Monday, former Vice President Mike Pence made it official: "Donald Trump 2024" is running against his own first big decision from 2016.

Awkward.

Meanwhile Nikki Haley, a candidate herself, went on Fox News to remind everyone of the choice Joe Biden made in 2020 after he received the Democratic nomination.

"A vote for President Biden is actually a vote for President Harris," she said on Fox News. "Make no bones about it. ... Every liberal knows ... it's Kamala Harris that's gonna end up being president if Joe Biden wins this election."

Now, in case you didn't get the memo, Haley has this "generational change" narrative she's been workshoping on the campaign trail. The former governor of South Carolina started banging this drum back in February when she proposed a "competency test" for politicians over 75. It didn't catch on. She's apparently moved on to an updated version of a 2020 scare tactic: Biden's age will prevent him from finishing the term—hence a "President Harris."

Haley's comments are a bit silly. The reason we have vice presidents is in case something happens to the president—not in case they're old. Ideally, the vice president pick is someone the nominee believes can do the job as well as bring excitement (Harris) or stability (Pence) to the ticket.

The hope is that the selection is more about qualifications than politics. When it comes to Harris, conservatives like Haley remain hungry to test that out, because they see a political opening. Their hunt began in 2020, the moment Biden made it clear his pick would be a Black woman. The more crowded the GOP field becomes this time around, the more frenzied their rhetoric about Harris is sure to become.

So give them what they want.

If the point of having a vice president is having a backup in case the president is unable to serve, why not own Biden's choice? That doesn't mean dwelling on his age as much as it means not allowing Haley and others to turn Biden's choice of vice president into a negative. Especially given the current relationship between Trump and Pence.

We know Haley's scare tactic wasn't intended to sow dissension on the left, because ... well, she was speaking on Fox News. So that "President Harris" specter was meant for Republican voters who would hate not only the thought of a Biden successor who could deliver on his promises, but also the image of Harris

being the commander-in-chief doing it.

It's something comedian Roy Wood Jr. touched on while hosting this year's White House Correspondents' Association dinner:

"I think the most insulting scandal to fall to the feet of the Biden administration was placed at the feet of our Madam Vice President—the scandal of 'What does Kamala do?' That's a disrespectful question, because nobody ever asked that question of a vice president until a woman got the job."

Specifically, a Black woman. Critics were primed to attack no matter what she did or didn't accomplish.

But consider the source. Most of the barbs aimed at Harris come from Republican detractors, members of the party whose front-runner was recently convicted of sexual assault, the party with a habit of catering to white nationalists. With

By **LZ GRANDERSON**

Los Angeles Times

LZ Granderson is an Op-Ed columnist for the Los Angeles Times.



their racist and sexist baggage, using "President Harris" as a boogeyman is especially disgusting. Also effective.

There's no getting around it.

So Biden should not allow opponents to use a "President Harris" narrative as a sign of his frailty; it's a strength. His first big decision as the nominee was historic. Now, go remind voters why it was also right ... which is something Trump can't do.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

What are the existing gun laws in the CNMI?

May I reiterate: To all government entities responsible, please begin a media campaign informing the public what CNMI laws concerning guns and firearms are already on the books as of June 1, 2023.

My interest in current CNMI gun laws came just before Christmas 2022 when a guy appeared in front of my kitchen window walking away from the window where I was washing dishes. I never saw his face but could see he had a large pistol/ sidearm in his right hand. I went to the main desk at the police department in Susupe and asked if that was against the law. I was told it was not against the law and that he was not breaking a law.

Needless to say, given the incredible amount of gun deaths in the U.S. mainland, the May 21st shooting of a 7-year-old in Kagman, one of my former students on Tinian shooting and killing a police officer on Tinian and injuring another policeman several years ago, a murder and suicide inside a law office here on Saipan also a few years ago, one can't say we don't have gun violence here in the CNMI.

Let the publication of what current laws exist begin a community dialogue, perhaps with legislators, Department of Public Safety officials, and lawyers holding community town halls throughout the islands with ideas for new legislation or changes to laws that exist.

My first thoughts about the islandwide publication of existing

gun laws were that they might prevent some abuser of a gun from using a plea of "*nolo contendere*" or ignorance of the law. Instructions on gun safety, current gun laws in existence, and punishment or fines for breaking the laws might be given with the issuance of a gun license. Certainly gun serial numbers would be registered at the time of purchase and a search of criminal records and mental instability might also be undertaken before a gun purchase be allowed. A periodic unannounced inventory of someone with a number of guns, say someone who has or had a rifle range, might be taken to ensure no guns have been released or sold to private parties in the CNMI.

Again, the saving of one life or many lives would make this proactive approach by the CNMI government, businesses, lawyers, and concerned citizens in general beneficial to the safety of the entire CNMI. The Marianas Visitors Authority could include a message about gun safety and CNMI legislation concerning guns to visitor bureaus and travel agencies in Japan, Korea, and China.

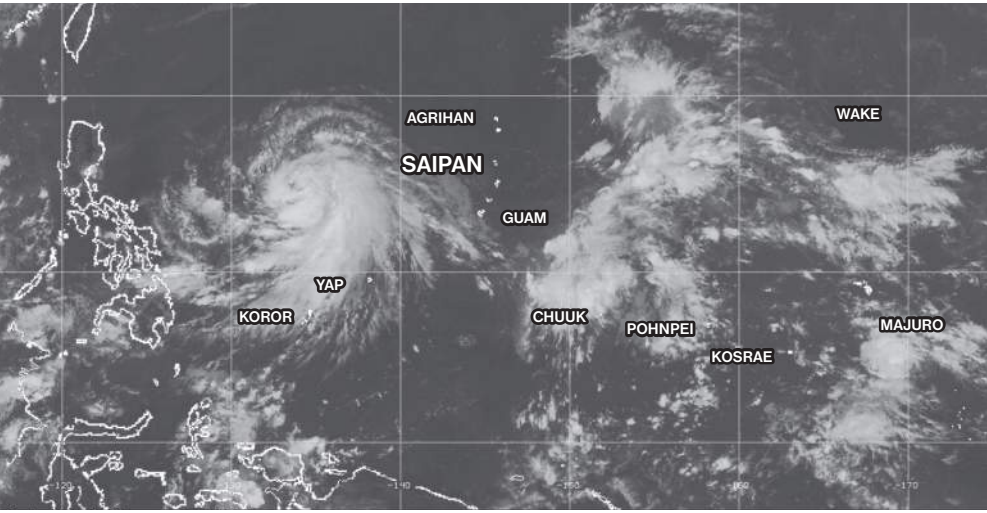
Thank you to all who are being proactive in saving future lives and decreasing the number of deaths and injured CNMI citizens due to violence, reckless endangerment, abuse, and illegal possession of guns.

Joey Connolly

Chinatown, Saipan

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN									
TODAY		FRIDAY		SATURDAY		SUNDAY		MONDAY	
Isolated showers. Mostly sunny		Mostly sunny		Partly sunny		Mostly sunny		A chance of showers. Partly sunny	
86°	77°	85°	77°	85°	77°	85°	76°	85°	76°
YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE									



PICTURE TIME: 8:25 AM, WEDNESDAY, JUNE 7, 2023

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Satellite shows mostly cloudy skies over Guam with partly cloudy over the CNMI. Isolated showers are the norm as a featureless, moderate trade-wind pattern prevails over and immediately upstream to the east. A lengthy north-to-south oriented surface trough is seen east of the Marianas to the east of 150E. A circulation (newly minted JTWC Invest 90W) rests along the southern extent of this surface trough near 11N149E, roughly halfway between Guam and Chuuk Lagoon. A prominent tropical upper-tropospheric trough (TUTT) cell is seen on water vapor imagery well to the northeast of Saipan. This TUTT cell is displacing most convection with the surface trough and 90W downstream to the east. Altimetry and buoy data indicate combined seas of 5 to 6 feet, composed mainly of easterly trade swell.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA			▲▼°F
Guam and Rota	Scattered Thunderstorms	87° / 80°	
Palau	Scattered Thunderstorms	84° / 77°	
Yap	Mostly Cloudy	86° / 79°	
Chuuk	Scattered Thunderstorms	86° / 80°	
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	88° / 77°	
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	86° / 79°	
Majuro	Scattered Thunderstorms	86° / 82°	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	5:45 AM	6:46 PM
Friday	5:46 AM	6:46 PM
Saturday	5:46 AM	6:46 PM
Sunday	5:46 AM	6:46 PM
Monday	5:46 AM	6:47 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	9:37 AM	10:59 PM
Friday	-	10:40 AM	11:46 PM
Saturday	-	11:39 AM	-
Sunday	12:29 AM	12:36 PM	-
Monday	1:09 AM	1:30 PM	-

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲▼°F
Auckland	Mostly Sunny	61° / 50°	
Beijing	Mostly Sunny	90° / 62°	
Hong Kong	Thunderstorms	88° / 82°	
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	85° / 73°	
London	Partly Cloudy	71° / 51°	
Los Angeles	Cloudy	70° / 58°	
Manila	Scattered Thunderstorms	91° / 81°	
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	60° / 48°	
Miami	Thunderstorms	84° / 76°	
New York	Mostly Sunny	77° / 58°	
Osaka	Rain	78° / 67°	
Paris	Mostly Sunny	83° / 62°	
Busan	Showers	71° / 63°	
Rome	Partly Cloudy	82° / 61°	
Salem	Thunderstorms	86° / 65°	
San Francisco	Cloudy	64° / 56°	
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	81° / 63°	
Tokyo	Showers	82° / 65°	
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	82° / 58°	

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
5:13 AM	Low Tide	1.57	
9:27 AM	High Tide	2.02	
5:12 PM	Low Tide	-0.29	
-	-	-	

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JUNE 1, 2023							
DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA117	9:50AM	10:30AM	Daily	UA174	8:00AM	8:50AM	Daily
UA156	6:55PM	7:40PM	1, 4 effective June 5	UA112	5:00PM	5:50PM	1, 4 effective June 5
SAIPAN- NARITA (NRT)				NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
UA824	7:25AM	9:55AM	1, 3, 5	UA825	9:25PM	1:50AM+1	2, 4, 7
GUAM-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-GUAM			
PR 111	5:55AM	7:55AM	Daily	UA184	10:25PM	4:25AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA193	6:55PM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Palau	UA189	10:25PM	6:10AM+1	2, 5 via Palau
UA183	7:15PM	9:10PM	Daily	PR110	10:30PM	4:25AM+1	Daily
				UA192	11:50PM	5:35AM+1	2, 5
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
OZ626/703	4:20AM	10:35PM	1, 4, 5, 7 via ICN	UA184/174	10:25PM	8:45AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6,7 via Guam
UA117/183	9:50AM	9:10PM	Daily via Guam	UA192/174	10:25PM	8:45AM+1	2, 5 via Palau, Guam
UA117/193	9:50AM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Guam, Palau	UA184/174	11:50PM	8:45AM+1	2, 5 via Guam
SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)				INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN			
TW308	3:15AM	7:00AM	Daily	7C3406	9:30AM	3:10PM	Daily
OZ626	4:20AM	7:55AM	1, 4, 5, 7	TW307	8:30PM	2:15AM+1	Daily
7C3403	4:45AM	8:35AM	Daily	OZ625	9:25PM	2:55AM+1	3, 4, 6, 7
7C3405	4:10PM	7:45PM	Daily	7C3405	10:10PM	3:40AM+1	Daily

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. (The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.							
FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JUNE 1, 2022							
SAIPAN TO ROTA				ROTA TO SAIPAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1301	8:30	9:00	Daily	3101	9:30	10:00	Daily
1302	11:00	11:30	Mon/Wed/Fri	3102	13:00	13:30	Tues/Thurs/ Sat/Sun
1302	12:00	12:30	Tues/Thurs/ Sat/Sun	3102	14:00	14:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
1303	15:30	16:00	Daily	3103	16:30	17:00	Daily
ROTA TO GUAM				GUAM TO ROTA			
LIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3401	12:00	12:30	Mon/Wed/Fri	4301	13:00	13:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
SAIPAN TO TINIAN				TINIAN TO SAIPAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily	2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily	2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
1204	10:00	10:15	Daily	2104	10:30	10:45	Daily
1208	14:00	14:15	Daily	2108	14:30	14:45	Daily
1209	15:00	15:15	Daily	2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
1210	16:00	16:15	Daily	2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
1211	17:00	17:15	Daily	2111	17:30	17:45	Daily

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Business

Bravo Kitchen & Bar unveils weekend special lunch buffet

By **MARK RABAGO**
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

With most of the island flocking to the 24th Annual Taste of the Marianas International Food Festival & Beer Garden, Bravo Kitchen & Bar has opted to shift its focus to attracting the lunch crowd on the weekends.

Owner Adrian Ruan said he expects dinner sales to go down in June because of the food festival every Saturday at Garapan Fishing Base, so Bravo Kitchen & Bar launched its lunch buffet every Saturday and Sunday.

The \$18.99 Bravo Kitchen & Bar special lunch buffet debuted this weekend with an eight-dish spread that included pork spareribs, sweet and sour pork, beef broccoli, fried lumpia, fried chicken, pancit, fried rice, poke, vegetable salad (cucumber with peanuts), and crab meat soup with seasonal fruits as dessert and bottomless iced tea.

Ruan said for now their special lunch buffet will only



MARK RABAGO

Bravo Kitchen & Bar is located across Cha Cafe along Beach Road in Garapan.

be available for the weekend, but if it's successful they have plans to make it everyday.

As for the dishes, Bravo Kitchen & Bar is still waiting for more customer feedback on what items to retain and replace, but judging from what Ruan heard during the lunch buffet's first go-around, the pork spareribs, fried lumpia, and poke seem to be here to stay.

Ruan said customers like the fried lumpia the most as their Philippine version of Chinese egg rolls is packed

with meat and are cooked to crispy brown perfection.

The pork spareribs also appear to be a crowd pleaser, as the dish was the first to always need refills in the buffet spread. Poke, meanwhile, has always been a local favorite for its freshness and umami taste.

Ruan hopes to get a good chunk of both the local and tourist market for their \$18.99 special lunch buffet.

Bravo Kitchen & Bar also continues to host a live band



MARK RABAGO

Bravo Kitchen & Bar owner Adrian Ruan gives a big thumbs up to the Garapan restaurant's new weekend special lunch buffet.

every night, which has been a favorite of bar-hopping habits who just like to relax and kick back after work.

Aside from the special lunch buffet, Bravo Kitchen & Bar can also host private parties with buffet spread for christenings, birthdays, engagements, weddings, graduations, and for other special occasions for a minimum of 20 people.

Bravo Kitchen & Bar can

accommodate up to 100 dine-in customers. It's open from 11am to 2pm (with buffet lunch last call at 1:30pm) and 5pm to 9pm every day. The bar can also be extended by another two hours until 11pm.

Bravo Kitchen & Bar is located across Cha Cafe along Beach Road in Garapan. For more information or to make reservations, call Bravo Kitchen & Bar at (670) 488-1818 or follow their Facebook page.



MARK RABAGO

The fried lumpia, left, and pork spareribs seem to be the favorites in Bravo Kitchen & Bar's weekend special lunch buffet.

Wheat prices jump following collapse of major dam in southern Ukraine

WASHINGTON (AP)—Global prices for wheat and corn soared Tuesday after a major dam in Ukraine collapsed, renewing market fears about the fragility of the country's ability to ship food to Africa, the Middle East and parts of Asia as it fights a war with Russia.

Wheat prices gained 2.4% in early trading Tuesday on the Chicago Mercantile Exchange, to \$6.39 a bushel. The cost of corn rose more than 1%, to \$6.04 a bushel, and oats gained 0.73%, to \$3.46 per unit. Prices were higher earlier

in the day but faded.

The destruction of the Kakhovka dam and hydroelectric power station, which sits in a Russian-controlled area on the Dnieper River, raised concerns about disruption to Ukraine's affordable supplies of wheat, barley, corn and sunflower oil getting to developing nations where people are struggling with hunger and high food prices.

"Anytime this war shows signs of getting further escalated, there's a lot of concern," said Joseph Glauber, senior research

fellow at the International Food Policy Research Institute. "Markets react to that."

Ukraine and Russia are both major agricultural suppliers and the war's disruption to their exports worsened a global food crisis tied to droughts and other factors. Breakthrough agreements brokered by the U.N. and Turkey last year got food moving again through the Black Sea, but it's faced setbacks.

Russia briefly pulled out of the deal last year, has threatened to leave again, is accused

of slowing shipments from Ukraine and has only agreed to renew the deal for two months at a time.

"People are going to be watching to see what happens with the agreement," said Glauber, former chief economist at the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Protests in France in last-ditch bid to resist higher retirement age

PARIS (AP)—French union activists marched on the headquarters of the Paris Olympics and slowed traffic at the capital's Orly Airport with strikes Tuesday as they sought to reignite resistance to a higher retirement age.

But the last-ditch effort drew fewer followers than at the height of the movement earlier this year, and even some union leaders seemed ready to move on.

President Emmanuel Macron's move to raise the retirement age from 62 to 64 — and force the measure through parliament without a vote — inflamed public emotions and triggered some of France's biggest demonstrations in years. But the intensity of anger over the pension reform has ebbed since the last big protests on May 1, which more than 500,000 people

attended in Paris alone, and since the measure became law in April.

As part of Tuesday's actions, a third of flights were canceled at Paris' Orly Airport because of strikes, and about 10% of trains around France were disrupted. Around 250 marches, rallies and other actions were planned around the country to mark the 14th day of national protest since January over the pension reform.

A small group of activists with the hard-left CGT union pushed their way into the headquarters of the 2024 Olympics in the Paris suburb of Saint-Denis, chanting anti-Macron slogans.

In Paris, mild tensions flared near a restaurant in the Left Bank as individuals engaged in minor vandalism of bus shelters and threw objects at police. Police quickly dis-

persed the crowds.

Thousands gathered along the embankments of the Seine River near the gold-domed Invalides monument before setting off on their march to southeast Paris. The peaceful crowd waved union flags, banged drums and chanted to demand the withdrawal of the pension law and a lower retirement age.

In the western city of Rennes, union activists marched on train tracks before being turned back by police, according to local public broadcaster France Bleu.

Macron says the pension reform was needed to finance the pension system as the population ages. Unions and left-wing opponents say the changes hurt poorer workers and have argued for higher taxes on the wealthy and employers instead.

BOH temporarily adjusts operating hours for Guam branches

Following Super Typhoon Mawar, Bank of Hawaii will be temporarily adjusting its operating hours for its Guam branches. This is due to diminished air conditioning as a result of the ongoing power outages, mainly at its Hagatna Branch.

In an effort to keep employees and customers safe and comfortable, effective Thursday, June 8 ChST, Bank of Hawaii will observe the following hours:

■ Hagatna Branch: Monday through Saturday: 8am to 1pm

■ Harmon Hours: Monday through Saturday: 8am to 5pm

Bank of Hawaii will continue to assess its branch locations during this ongoing recovery period and will notify the public when it resumes normal operating hours for its Guam branches.

Given the power outages across the West Pacific region, some Bank of Hawaii ATMs on Guam and Saipan are not functioning. For a current list of ATMs that are operating on Guam and Saipan, please visit the Bank of Hawaii website at: <https://www.boh.com/mawar>.

Call Center operations remain open to assist customers. West Pacific region customers

may continue to contact Bank of Hawaii through its Call Center at 1-877-553-2424 for Guam and Saipan. Bank of Hawaii's Call Center on Guam will be automatically re-routed to Hawaii.

Online and mobile banking services will continue to operate unless power interruptions are experienced. Bank of Hawaii will also place public updates on all of its social media platforms (Facebook: www.facebook.com/bankofhawaii, Instagram: www.instagram.com/bankofhawaii and Twitter: www.twitter.com/bankofhawaii), as well as its website: www.boh.com.) (PR)

Nation

Florida official: Migrants flown to California went willingly

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP)—Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis' administration said Tuesday that three dozen migrants whom the state flew from the U.S. southern border to California on private planes all went willingly, disputing allegations by California officials that the individuals were coerced to travel under false pretenses.

The admission of responsibility — five days after the first flight touched down in California's capital — only served to heighten tensions between DeSantis and California Gov. Gavin Newsom, his frequent political sparring partner.

Two planes arrived in Sacramento, on Friday and Monday, each carrying asylum-seekers mostly from Colombia and Venezuela. The individuals had been picked up in El Paso, Texas, taken to New Mexico and then put on charter flights to California's capital of Sacramento, said California Attorney General Rob Bonta. He is investigating whether any violations of criminal or civil law occurred.

Alecia Collins, a spokeswoman for the Florida Division of Emergency Management, said in a statement that "through verbal and written consent, these volunteers indicated they wanted to go to California." She also shared a video compilation that appeared to show



The offices of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Sacramento are seen in Sacramento, Calif., Monday, June 5, 2023. Sixteen migrants from Venezuela and Colombia were brought to the diocese's offices on Friday, June 2, 2023, after being flown from Texas to Sacramento.

people signing consent forms and thanking officials for treating them well.

The clips had no time stamps, and Collins declined to share additional details about when and where they were recorded. Representatives from Sacramento ACT and PICO California, two re-

ligious groups helping the migrants in Sacramento, did not immediately respond to messages seeking comment about whether the migrants in the videos were the same as those they were helping.

Bonta told CNN late Tuesday he would be requesting that Florida turn over any

video footage, unedited, that it has of the group. A spokeswoman for his office could not confirm if any of the people seen in the video were among the migrants Bonta met.

This isn't the first time DeSantis' administration has transported migrants from Texas to other states. Last fall, Florida flew 49 Venezuelans to the upscale Massachusetts island of Martha's Vineyard. The move was intended to protest federal immigration policy. DeSantis has said he

intends to send migrants who may end up in Florida to states that have immigrant-friendly policies, like California.

It's not clear whether Florida was the intended destination for any of the people who arrived in California. If so, they would represent just a sliver of the immigrants who arrive in Florida each year.

DeSantis signed a law providing \$12 million for his migrant-relocation initiative in early May, just weeks before announcing his Republican

presidential bid. He has touted the earlier migrant flights to Martha's Vineyard on the campaign trail.

Newsom, a Democrat, indicated in a tweet Monday that California may consider kidnapping charges against DeSantis. Such charges would likely be extremely difficult to prove, particularly given the migrants signed waivers.

Bonta has not directly said he is considering kidnapping charges. The Bexar County Sheriff's Office in Texas on Monday said it had recommended misdemeanor and felony charges for "unlawful restraints" in the transport of migrants from San Antonio to Martha's Vineyard. The county district attorney must decide whether to pursue those charges and against whom.

Possible charges aside, Newsom's office doubled down on its criticism of DeSantis after Florida claimed credit.

"This is exploitative propaganda being peddled by a politician who has shown there are no depths he won't sink to in his desperate effort to score a political point," said Anthony York, a spokesman for Newsom.

Though Newsom has no plans to run for president in 2024, he and DeSantis have frequently used each other as political foils as they cast their own governing approach as a model for the nation. Beyond immigration policy, the two have sparred on abortion access, LGBTQ+ and civil rights, and a host of other cultural issues.

Pence to launch presidential campaign vs Trump in Iowa

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP)—Mike Pence is staking his presidential hopes on Iowa as he launches a campaign for the Republican nomination for president in Des Moines on Wednesday that will make him the first vice president in modern history to take on his former running mate.

Pence's campaign will also test the party's appetite for a socially conservative, mild-mannered and deeply religious candidate who has denounced the populist tide that has swept through his party under former President Donald Trump. And it will show whether Pence still has a political future after Jan. 6, 2021, with a large portion of GOP voters still believing Trump's lies that the 2020 election was stolen and that Pence had the power to reject the results.

Pence and his advisers see Iowa — the state that will cast the first votes of the GOP nominating calendar — as key to his potential pathway to the nomination. Its caucus-goers include a large portion of evangelical Christian voters, whom they see as a natural constituency for

Pence. They also think Pence, who represented Indiana in Congress and as governor, is a good personality fit with the Midwestern state.

"We believe the path to victory runs through Iowa and all of its 99 counties," said Scott Reed, co-chair of a super PAC that launched last month to support Pence's candidacy.

Iowa has typically been seen as a launching pad for presidential candidates, delivering momentum, money and attention to hopefuls who win or defy expectations. But recent past winners including Ted Cruz, Rick Santorum and Mike Huckabee have failed to ultimately win the nomination.

And Pence faces steep challenges. He enters the race as among the best-known Republican candidates in a crowded GOP field that now includes Trump, Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis, former United Nations Ambassador Nikki Haley, South Carolina Sen. Tim Scott, former New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie and former Arkansas Gov. Asa Hutchinson.

But Pence — seen by Trump critics as complicit with his

most indefensible actions and maligned by Trump loyalists as a traitor — is also saddled with high unfavorable ratings.

A CNN poll conducted last month found 45% of Republicans and Republican-leaning independents said they would not support Pence under any circumstance. Only 16% said the same about Trump.

Pence's favorability has also slipped in Iowa, according to The Des Moines Register/Mediacom Iowa Poll.

Shortly after leaving office, in June 2021, 86% of Iowa Republicans said they had a favorable view of Pence. But the Register's March Iowa Poll showed that figure had dropped to 66%. The poll also found Pence with higher unfavorable ratings than all of the other candidates it asked about, including Trump and DeSantis, with 26% of Republicans polled saying they have a "somewhat" or "very" unfavorable view of him.

And just 58% of Iowa evangelicals said they had favorable feelings toward Pence — a particularly disappointing number, given his campaign's strategy.

Source: Florida grand jury involved in Trump docs probe by Justice Dept.

WASHINGTON (AP)—Federal prosecutors are using a grand jury in Florida as part of their investigation into the possible mishandling of classified documents at former President Donald Trump's Palm Beach property, a person familiar with the matter said Tuesday night.

The grand jury is in addition to a separate panel that has been meeting in Washington for months to consider charges against Trump over the retention of hundreds of classified documents at Mar-a-Lago and potential obstruction of the government's efforts to reclaim the records.

It is not clear why prosecutors are using an additional grand jury, which was described by The Associated Press by a person who insisted on anonymity to discuss secret proceedings, or which witnesses might be testifying before it.

A variety of witnesses, in-

cluding lawyers for Trump, close aides to the former president and officials with the Trump Organization, have appeared over the last year before the grand jury in Washington. But the use of a different grand jury in Florida suggests that prosecutors may also be eyeing at least some potential charges in that state.

The Mar-a-Lago investigation, being led by special counsel Jack Smith's team of prosecutors, is thought to be in its final stages, with a charging decision expected soon. Trump's lawyers met at the Justice Department on Monday with officials including Smith, part of an effort by the legal team to raise concerns about what they say is prosecutorial misconduct and to try to argue against a potential indictment.

The investigation has centered not only on the possession of classified documents, includ-

ing at the top-secret level, but also on the refusal of Trump to return the records when asked and on possible obstruction. The FBI last year issued a subpoena for classified records at the property, and after coming to suspect that Trump and his representatives had not returned all the documents, returned with a search warrant and recovered an additional 100 documents with classification markings.

Investigators have questioned a Trump associate who was seen on surveillance camera moving boxes of documents at Mar-a-Lago. As part of an obstruction probe centered in part on surveillance footage, they more recently have expressed interest in a worker's draining of a pool at the resort last October, an act that caused a flood at the property, according to another person who spoke on condition of anonymity. That area of interest was first reported by CNN.

Asia

TO AVOID ESCALATION OF TENSIONS

Senior US, Chinese diplomats hold 'candid' talks

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP)—Senior diplomats from China and the United States held “candid and productive” talks in Beijing and agreed to keep open lines of communication to avoid tensions from spiraling into conflict, officials said Tuesday.

On Monday, Daniel Kritenbrink, assistant U.S. secretary of state for East Asian and Pacific affairs, was the most senior U.S. official confirmed to have visited China since tensions between Washington and Beijing soared with the shooting down of a Chinese spy balloon over the U.S. in early February.

U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken at the time postponed a planned trip to China, and Beijing has since largely rebuffed attempts at official exchanges, though two top U.S. and Chinese defense officials briefly interacted at a forum in Singapore over the weekend.

China's Foreign Ministry said Kritenbrink and Vice Foreign Minister Ma Zhaoyu “had candid, constructive and fruitful communication on promoting the improvement of China-U.S. relations and properly man-



Daniel Kritenbrink, Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs, testifies to a full committee hearing about China of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, on Feb. 28, 2023, on Capitol Hill in Washington.

aging differences.”

Beijing said it stated its “sole position on Taiwan”—a self-ruled island China claims as its territory to be annexed by force if necessary—and other issues, and that the two sides had agreed to maintain communication.

The U.S. State Department also said the two officials held “candid and productive discussions as part of ongoing efforts to maintain open lines of communication and build on recent high-level diplomacy between the two countries.”

The U.S. Navy complained

Sunday about an “unsafe interaction” in the Taiwan Strait, after a Chinese warship came within 150 yards (137 meters) of a U.S. destroyer. In May, a Chinese fighter jet flew dangerously close to a U.S. reconnaissance aircraft over the South China Sea, where Beijing shares overlapping territorial claims with other nations.

CIA Director William Burns reportedly took a secret trip last month to Beijing in another sign the two sides are interested in restoring communication through various channels.

US defense secretary discusses upgrading ties with India to counter China

NEW DELHI (AP)—U.S. Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin on Monday discussed upgrading partnership with India, a major arms buyer, and set a roadmap for cooperation for the next five years as both countries grapple with China's economic rise and increased belligerence, officials said.

Austin's visit comes as India strengthens its domestic defense industry by acquiring new technologies and reducing reliance on imports, particularly from Russia, its largest supplier of military hardware despite the ongoing war in Ukraine.

Austin and his Indian counterpart, Rajnath Singh, explored ways of building resilient supply chains, a statement from India's Defense Ministry said. They decided “to identify opportunities for the co-development of new technologies and co-production of existing and new systems and facilitate increased collaboration between defense startup ecosystems of the two countries.”

They also discussed regional security issues and committed to strengthening operational collaboration across all military services,

with an eye to supporting India's leading role as a security provider in the Indo-Pacific, the statement said.

The new roadmap for U.S.-India defense industrial cooperation will fast track technology cooperation and co-production in areas such as air combat and land mobility systems, intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance, munitions and the undersea domain, said a U.S. Department of Defense press release.

“This initiative aims to change the paradigm for cooperation between U.S. and Indian defense sectors, including a set of specific proposals that could provide India access to cutting-edge technologies and support India's defense modernization plans,” it said.

The discussions also included cooperation in space, cyberspace, and artificial intelligence. Austin also met with India's National Security Adviser Ajit Doval.

“I'm returning to India to meet with key leaders for discussions about strengthening our Major Defense Partnership. Together, we're advancing a shared vision for a free and open Indo-Pacific,” Austin tweeted after his arrival in

New Delhi on Sunday.

Austin, who is on his second visit to India, was expected to lay the groundwork for Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Washington on June 22, which has fuelled speculation about a possible announcement of defense contracts.

India is looking to buy 18 armed high-altitude long-endurance unmanned aerial vehicles from General Atomics Aeronautical Systems Inc. for an estimated \$1.5 billion to \$2 billion, said Rahul Bedi, a defense analyst. The UAVs would likely be deployed along its restive borders with China and Pakistan and in the strategic Indian Ocean region, Bedi said.

Indian media reports said a joint production and manufacture of combat aircraft engines, infantry combat vehicles, howitzers and their precision ordnance were discussed last month in Washington at a meeting of the U.S.-India Defense Policy Group.

Austin arrived in New Delhi from Singapore, where he attended the Shangri-La Dialogue, an annual forum bringing together top defense officials, diplomats and leaders.

World

WORLD BRIEFS

Ukraine brands Russia 'terrorist state' to open hearings in case against Russia at top UN court

THE HAGUE, Netherlands (AP)—Lawyers for Ukraine told the United Nations' top court Tuesday that Russia bankrolled a “campaign of intimidation and terror” by rebels in eastern Ukraine starting in 2014 and sought to replace Crimea's multiethnic community with “discriminatory Russian nationalism” after its occupation and annexation of the region.

The claims came at hearings at the International Court of Justice in a case brought by Kyiv against Russia linked to Moscow's 2014 annexation of the Crimean Peninsula and the arming of rebels in eastern Ukraine in the years before Russia's full-scale invasion in February 2022. Ukraine wants the world court to order Moscow to pay reparations for attacks and crimes in the regions, including for the downing of Malaysia Airlines flight MH17 that was shot down by Russia-backed rebels on July 17, 2014, killing all 298 passengers and crew. Four days of hearings in the court's ornate, wood-paneled Great Hall of Justice opened against a backdrop of Europe's deadliest conflict since World War II. Ukraine and Russia were trading accusations of blame for the damage to the Kakhovka dam and hydroelectric power station, which are located in a part of Ukraine that Moscow controls. Lawyers for Kyiv presented legal arguments to support their case Tuesday. Russia's lawyers will address judges Thursday. Each side has another opportunity next week to present evidence. Judges are expected to take months to issue a judgment. “When it could have instructed its officials not to fund groups committing violence against civilians, Russia did nothing,” Harold Koh, a lawyer for Ukraine, told judges. “Instead, as more deadly weapons arrived in Ukraine and more Ukrainian civilians suffered atrocities, Russian officials escalated their illegal supply of monies and weapons sending.” Koh said that in July 2014, a Buk anti-aircraft system was sent into Ukraine “after which Malaysia Airlines Flight MH17 was destroyed.”

Another lawyer on Ukraine's team, David Zions, said that pro-Russia forces in eastern Ukraine “attacked civilians as part of a campaign of intimidation and terror. Russian money and weapons fueled this campaign.” The Ukrainian legal team said Russia did nothing to prevent or help Ukraine investigate the financial streams.

Opponents compete to square off against Venezuela's powerful leader

CARACAS, Venezuela

(AP)—Leaders of Venezuela's fractured opposition are shaking voters' hands and promising—yet again—that they will defeat President Nicolás Maduro at the ballot box. Maduro is backed by the all-powerful United Socialist Party of Venezuela, which has controlled the nation and its oil wealth for a quarter-century. The party was led for 15 years by Hugo Chávez and has been behind Maduro for a decade, all the while tilting the electoral system in its favor and using government benefits as incentives to vote for it. Despite the sky-high odds against them, opposition leaders say that giving up would be worse, so they're holding an Oct. 22 primary to decide who will take on Maduro next year. They are getting a lukewarm reception from dispirited voters who were told for years to boycott elections. Interested candidates could officially enter the race starting Tuesday but many election basics—such as who will vote, how and where—remain undetermined. Still, so far about 10 politicians think they have what it takes to face Maduro and the United Socialist Party of Venezuela. “All of us Venezuelans who want to live better, who want to live in a democracy, must do what is within our reach,” said Jesús María Casal, a constitutional attorney who heads the body overseeing the primary. The list of aspiring candidates includes Henrique Capriles, a two-time presidential candidate and former governor, and Maria Corina Machado, a former National Assembly member. Freddy Superlano, a onetime gubernatorial candidate, became his party's choice after Juan Guaidó, the former self-proclaimed acting president of Venezuela, left the country in late April. Voters are being suffocated by a protracted crisis that has pushed more than 7 million people to

migrate and has made food and other necessities unaffordable for those who remain.

Leaders gather in Paris to accelerate wringing more out of every ounce of fuel

As 30 energy environment and trade ministers plus 50 CEOs assemble in Paris for the 8th international conference on energy efficiency, the International Energy Agency is urgently calling for greater investment in energy efficiency for factories, cars and appliances to meet international climate goals. The agency touted recent global progress: A report released Wednesday says that demand for energy is growing, yet emissions are not growing as fast. Efficiency is increasing every year as technology improves, and last year that increase was twice the average of the previous five years. “We're at a real juncture where more efficient, more clean, more affordable technology is starting to dominate,” said Brian Motherway, chief of energy efficiency at the IEA, during a press conference Tuesday. Eliminating wasted energy is the most affordable way to bring goods and services to the people who need them—while slowing greenhouse gas emissions—the main driver of global warming, energy experts say. Government policies that encourage energy efficiency are driving the trend. Japan has strengthened laws that favor energy efficient buildings. The European Union agreed this year to reduce its total energy consumption by some 12% compared to its 2020 forecast, by improving buildings, heavy industry and private transportation. The United States allocated a record 95 billion dollars over ten years through the Inflation Reduction Act to increase energy efficiency in power generation, buildings and cars. And India passed important legislation to decrease the amount of energy used by homes. “Government initiatives are critical because they get big buildings, they get big housing projects, they get industry (and) they have to take it seriously,” said Daniel Kammen, a professor of energy at the University of California, Berkeley who was not involved in the IEA report. According to the report, total public and private investment in energy efficiency increased by 15% in 2022 to \$600 billion from the previous year. **(AP)**

Environment

Sugarloaf mountain and the Guanabara Bay are seen in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, July 8, 2016. AP

Brazil's prosecutors block zipline construction at Rio mountain

BRASILIA, Brazil (AP)—Brazil's federal prosecutors blocked a decision to authorize the installment of ziplines at Rio de Janeiro's iconic Sugarloaf Mountain, claiming they will damage the environment around a UNESCO world heritage site.

Prosecutors announced the decision late Thursday, arguing that Iphan, a federal agency under the Ministry of Culture, "illicitly" authorized the project after construction had already begun in September 2022.

Now, both Iphan and the company responsible for the construction of the ziplines are defendants in a civil law-

suit and each must pay a fine of at least US\$9.5 million (50 million reais). Prosecutors gave the company a 60-day deadline to present a schedule to work on repairing a damaged area and to remove every structure and the residuals from the construction site.

Sugarloaf—known in Portuguese as Pao de Açúcar—juts out of the earth at the entrance to Rio's bay. The U.N. agency named it a World Heritage Site in 2012 along with Rio's other marquee mountains and, years earlier, Brazil's heritage institute designated it a national monument.

The cable cars to its summit

draw hundreds of thousands of Brazilian and international tourists each year, all eager to take in the panoramic views of the sprawling city's beaches and forested mountains.

In March, some 200 people gathered beneath Sugarloaf Mountain to protest the ongoing construction of ziplines aimed at boosting tourism, alleging it would cause an "unacceptable" environmental impact.

The zipline's four steel lines would run 755 meters (almost 2,500 feet) over the forest between Sugarloaf and Urca Hill, and riders would reach speeds of 100 kph (62 mph).

Inauguration was scheduled for the second half of this year, and an online petition to halt work was signed by almost 11,000 people.

The spot is also popular for sport climbing and bird-watching, with the preserved Atlantic Forest towering over the sleepy Urca neighborhood. As such, the prospect of riders buzzing down wires while screaming loudly united mountaineers, environmental activists and residents in opposition. They have cautioned UNESCO could withdraw its heritage status.

Prosecutors acted after a public interest civil action law-

suit filed by Brazilian citizens required halting construction at Sugarloaf in order to protect the environment and its historical and cultural heritage. Federal prosecutors also found that the zipline construction "altered the land's natural outline due to the rock's demolition (...) and drilling".

Parque Bondinho Pao de Açúcar, which operates the cable cars and is behind the 50-million reais (\$9.5-million) zipline project said in a statement that sound tests indicate noise from riders will not be perceptible from below, nor will it affect climbing routes. It said it has obtained all the

necessary permits and licenses to run the project, from the National Heritage Institute to municipal authorities. It also argued the project has the ability to drive tourism to the area.

"In addition to the great integration with nature, the intention is to improve the experience of our visitors and make the visit to Parque Bondinho Pao de Açúcar Park even more pleasant and unforgettable," the company says on its website.

Opponents to the zipline project have dubbed it "the castle of horrors" and have expressed concerns it would be a harbinger of future interventions.

UN climate chief calls fossil fuel phase out key to curbing warming

By **SETH BORENSTEIN**
AP SCIENCE WRITER

The world needs to phase out fossil fuels if it wants to curb global warming, the United Nations climate chief said in an interview with The Associated Press. But he said the idea might not make it on to the agenda of "make-or-break" international climate negotiations this fall, run in and by an oil haven.

A phase out of heat-trapping fossil fuels "is something that is at top of every discussion or most discussions that are taking place," U.N. climate Executive Secretary Simon Stiell said. "It is an issue that has global attention. How that

translates into an agenda item and a (climate talks) outcome we will see."

Stiell told AP he couldn't quite promise it would get a spot on the agenda in climate talks, called COP28, in Dubai later this year.

That agenda decision is up to the president of the negotiations, Stiell said. He is the head of the state-owned Abu Dhabi National Oil Company, Sultan al-Jaber.

The decision by host nation United Arab Emirates to make al-Jaber the head of the climate conference has drawn fierce opposition from lawmakers in Europe and the United States, as well as environmental advocates.

UAE officials said they want game-changing results in the climate talks and note that al-Jaber also runs a large renewable energy company.

Last year at climate talks, a proposal by India to phase out all fossil fuels, supported by the United States and many European nations, never got on the agenda. What gets discussed is decided by the COP president, who last year was the foreign minister of Egypt, a natural gas exporting nation.

When asked if Egypt's leaders kept the concept off the agenda, Stiell, speaking via Zoom from Bonn, Germany,

where preliminary talks start Monday, said he couldn't comment except to say that "it's within their purview."



Stiell

An engineer-turned government official and diplomat, Stiell walked a fine line between talking about the importance of a fossil fuel phase out and supporting the U.N. process that has put countries that export oil and natural gas in charge of negotiations about global warming for two consecutive years.

About 94% of the heat-trapping carbon dioxide human industrial activity put in the air last year was from the burning of coal, oil and

natural gas, according to the scientists who monitor emissions at Global Carbon Project. Al-Jaber's company has the capacity to produce 2 million barrels of oil and 7 billion cubic feet of natural gas a day and said it plans to increase that drilling to 5 million barrels a day by 2027.

Getting a fossil fuel phase out on the agenda this year depends on the conference president al-Jaber and on whether there is enough pressure from other nations, Stiell said.

"Where better to have a discussion ... then in a region where fossil fuels is at the center of their economy?" Stiell asked.

But the issue of a coal, oil and natural gas phase out is so central to Stiell he brought it

up four times in the half-hour interview Saturday. He said the real issue is getting something done, not putting it on the agenda.

In public appearances, al-Jaber has emphasized being "laser-focused on phasing out fossil fuel emissions," not necessarily the fuels themselves, by promoting carbon capture and removal of the pollutant from the air.

Stiell dismissed the idea that carbon removal can be a short-term solution.

"Right now, in this critical decade of action to achieve those deep reductions, the science tells us it can only be achieved through the reduced use, significantly reduced use, of all fossil fuels," Stiell said in the interview.

Life & Style

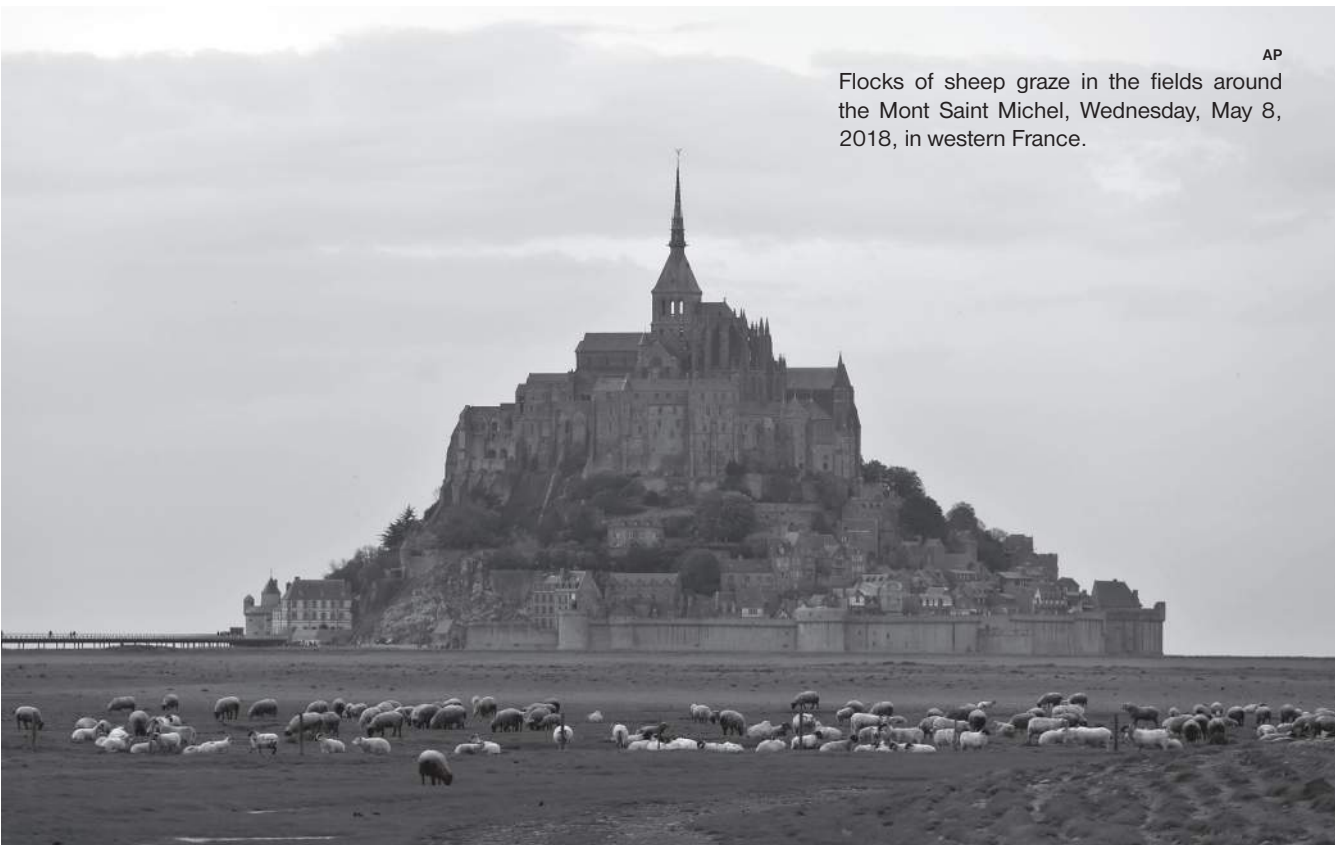
France’s abbey Mont-Saint-Michel celebrates 1,000th birthday

PARIS (AP)—France’s beloved abbey of Mont-Saint-Michel has reached a ripe old age. It’s been 1,000 years since the laying of its first stone.

The millennial of the UNESCO World Heritage site and key Normandy tourism magnet is being celebrated until November with exhibits, dance shows and concerts. And now a presidential visit.

French President Emmanuel Macron went there Monday and delivered a speech in which he called on the French to “push themselves further” in global and existential challenges like that of climate change. He drew a comparison with the abbey that has stood strong over time and embodies the “French spirit” of “resilience” and “resistance.” It was veiled rhetoric, coming one day before another protest against his contested pension reform law that has been passed.

Ever since former President François Mitterrand in 1983, France’s leaders have flocked to this symbolically important site to send out political messages. In 2007, former President



AP
Flocks of sheep graze in the fields around the Mont Saint Michel, Wednesday, May 8, 2018, in western France.

Nicolas Sarkozy even launched his presidential campaign there. Macron’s presidential advisers had said of this visit that the “walls and the eternity of the Mount” seem to carry “the

notions of resistance and resilience” of the D-Day landings that are being commemorated this week in the same region. Macron also visited a new exhibit tracing the Roman-

esque abbey’s history via 30 objects and pieces, including a restored statue of Saint Michael. Legend has it that the archangel Michael appeared in 708, duly instruct-

ing the bishop of nearby Avranches to build him a church on the rocky outcrop. The exhibit, two years in the making, opened last month. It covers the complex

process of building what is considered an architectural jewel on a rocky island linked to the mainland only by a narrow causeway at high tide.

Four crypts were constructed on the granite tip along with a church on top. The exhibit explains how the original structure, built in 966, became too small for pilgrims, spurring on the builders to create the 11th-century abbey that stands to this day.

France has spent more than 32 million euros (\$34 million) over 15 years to restore the building, and the work is nearing completion. Authorities have also tried in recent years to protect the monument’s surrounding environment from the impact of mass tourism.

One of the most popular French destinations outside Paris, Mont-Saint-Michel island attracted 2.8 million visitors last year, including 1.3 million for the abbey. It was not closed to visitors for the presidential visit, but local authorities were taking measures to make it go as smoothly as possible.

Prince Harry testifies tabloids destroyed his childhood but fails to recall specific stories

LONDON (AP)—Prince Harry’s historic showdown Tuesday with the publisher of a British tabloid exposed his deep suspicions of the press but offered little concrete evidence to support accusations of phone hacking that he said caused so much anguish in his life.

The Duke of Sussex became the first senior member of the royal family to testify

in more than a century as he held a Bible in his right hand and, in a soft voice, swore to tell the “whole truth and nothing but the truth” in the High Court in London.

Harry accuses the publisher of the Daily Mirror of using unlawful techniques on an “industrial scale” to score front-page scoops on his life.

Dressed in a dark suit and tie as he sat in the witness

box, Harry told Mirror Group Newspapers attorney Andrew Green that he had “experienced hostility from the press since I was born.” The prince accused the tabloids of playing “a destructive role in my growing-up.”

Green apologized for the one instance Mirror Group has admitted to hiring a private investigator to dig up dirt on Harry, which was

not among the claims he has brought. Mirror Group denies or doesn’t admit his other allegations.

Green acknowledged that the duke had “lived a life of tabloid life intrusion,” and then in a sympathetic tone set about dismantling his case.

Taken back in time to his 12th birthday and onward through early adulthood, he was confronted with articles that he has complained about and asked to identify the source of wrongdoing by Mirror Groups’s journalists.

Harry was forced almost immediately to acknowledge that he wasn’t certain he read the 33 specific articles about him when they were published.

“Is it realistic, when you have been the subject of so much press intrusion by so many press, both domestic and international, to attribute specific distress to a particular article from 20 years ago, which you may not have seen at the time?” Green asked.

“It isn’t a specific article; it is all of the articles,” Harry said. “Every single article

has caused me distress.”

He suggested the articles were the result of phone hacking or some other unlawful information gathering method that “desperate journalists” relied on for any news nugget about his life.

The 38-year-old son of King Charles III is the first senior British royal since the 19th century to face questioning in a court. An ancestor, the future King Edward VII, appeared as a witness in a trial over a gambling scandal in 1891.

Grandma’s annoying behavior sets up family confrontation

DEAR ABBY: My mother-in-law is an attention-seeker. She’s very loud and talks in a baby voice so that everyone looks at her. She made my wedding shower and, years later, my baby shower all about her and the gifts she gave. Not only did it take the spotlight from my husband and me, but it made other family members’ gifts or contributions seem inadequate. She always has to give the biggest and best (while letting everyone know) and distract from other people’s special moments.

My daughter is being married in a year and a half. She has already told me she doesn’t want Grandma “Dorothy” to come dress shopping because she doesn’t want to be embarrassed, but she does want my mom and her fiancé’s mom and grandmother to be there. I have told her that she has to invite Grandma Dorothy.

I do love my mother-in-law, and I want her to come to all of the festivities. The problem is she gets irrationally mad if you ask her to modify her behavior in any way. My question is, how do I ask her to reel it in without offending her or making her mad? My husband’s solution is to ignore his mother’s behavior.

CRINGING IN MISSOURI

■■■

DEAR CRINGING: It’s time to step out of the way on this matter. You seem to have forgotten that this upcoming

wedding is not your wedding, but your daughter’s. Her wishes about who should attend what should prevail. If she understands the ramifications of excluding Grandma Dorothy and is willing to forgo the lavish gifts and contributions her grandmother bestows, then that should be her privilege. Further, the person who conveys that message should be your daughter, not YOU.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I have been separated for six months due to verbal abuse, physical abuse (both of us) and financial dishonesty and abuse (him). We have worked to better ourselves, and the separation has helped us realize that we do love each other and are committed to changing our ways.

I was preparing to move back home, and I informed him that I am going to go on a trip before a required medical procedure. I will be spending the summer recovering from this procedure, and I want to do something fun before I’m laid up for the next several months. I plan to go with my brother, his wife and another sister-in-law. My husband feels it is disrespectful for me to go on this trip. He said that if I go, I should expect divorce papers. Thoughts?

BIG DECISION IN MONTANA

■■■

DEAR ABBY

BY ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



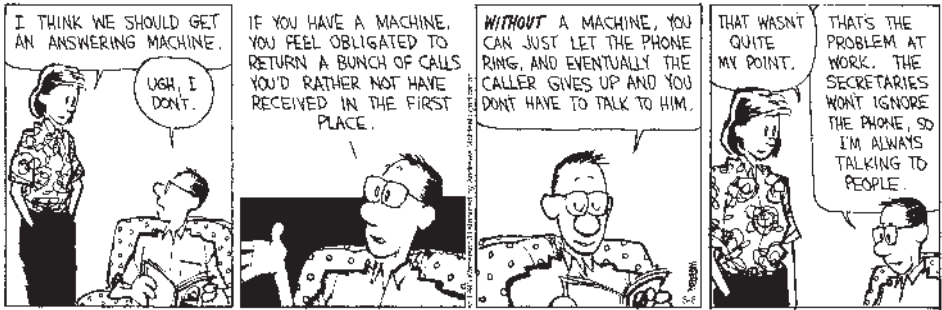
DEAR BIG DECISION: If your husband feels your going on the trip is disrespectful to him **BECAUSE HE WASN’T INVITED**, go without him and make other arrangements for your recuperation. Someone who has worked successfully to better himself does not give ultimatums like the one he has given you. If you skip the trip, this is only the beginning of how he will threaten you in the future. Love him, if you will, but do **NOT** reunite with him.

To receive a collection of Abby’s most memorable – and most frequently requested – poems and essays, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



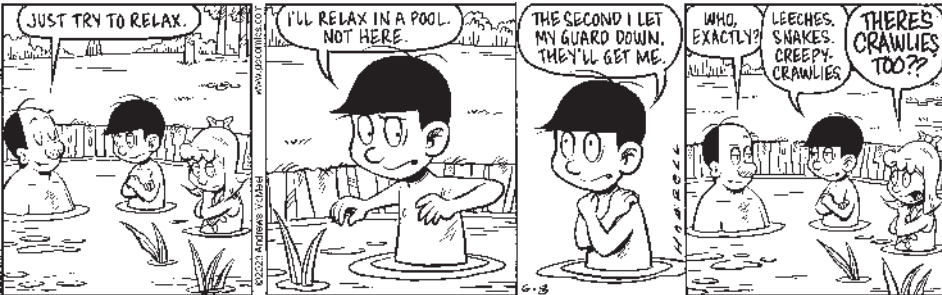
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

- 1 Grit
- 5 Baby's call
- 9 CEO's deg.
- 12 Latin love
- 13 Military group
- 14 Right angle
- 15 Court-room lawyer
- 17 Female hare
- 18 Go places
- 19 Select group
- 21 UFO pilot
- 22 Biblical realm
- 24 Abbey residents
- 27 CIA operative
- 28 Wild guess
- 31 Simile words
- 32 "Alley —"
- 33 Eggs
- 34 Naked
- 36 Three, in Rome

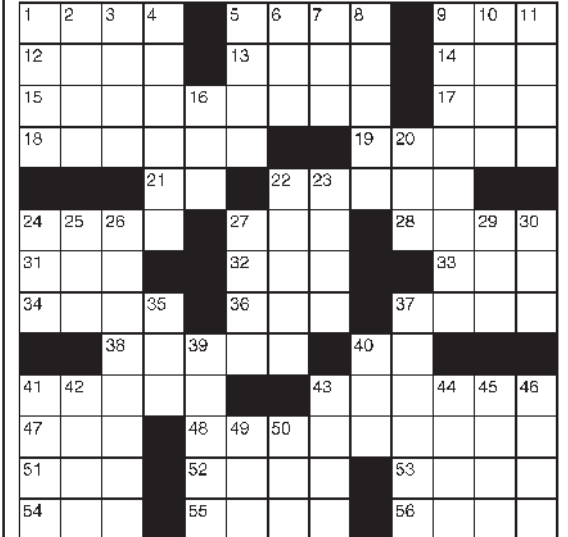
DOWN

- 1 Corn
- 2 "The Kite Runner" boy
- 3 Part of N.B.
- 4 Fairway shots
- 5 Two-way
- 6 Indus-trious insect
- 7 God, in Roma
- 8 "—"
- 9 Dispute referee
- 10 Inky stain
- 11 Sheltered
- 16 Retrieve
- 20 Scale abbr.
- 22 Wear
- 23 Ballyhoo
- 24 Collar
- 25 "Suits" network
- 26 Ishmael, in "Moby-Dick"
- 27 Lushes
- 29 Gardner of Holly-wood
- 30 "Kapow!"
- 35 Dawn goddess
- 37 New Orleans campus
- 39 Admin. aides
- 40 Invoice fig.
- 41 Diploma recipient
- 42 Mine find
- 43 Frosts a cake
- 44 At the summit of
- 45 Ripped
- 46 A Great Lake
- 49 Soda
- 50 JFK info

Solution time: 24 mins.

P	S	S	T	P	F	C	A	F	E	W
U	H	O	H	A	I	R	L	A	V	A
S	E	E	M	E	D	S	P	E	L	L
E	L	O	I	A	R	S				
E	A	R	T	U	B	S	T	A	R	T
B	L	I	P	T	O	W	A	F	A	R
B	A	S	A	W	E	D	E	M	U	
K	E	G	S	B	E	D				
I	O	F	F	E	E	I	B	E	R	I
I	A	R	E	C	A	N	T	M	I	S
U	S	E	R	I	R	A	O	O	N	A
S	T	E	S	S	I	R	S	T	O	P

Yesterday's answer 6-8



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call 1-800-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Maria Menounos, 45; Julianna Margulies, 57; Frank Grillo, 58; Keenen Ivory Wayans, 65.

Happy Birthday: Live and learn. Take in as much information as possible, and follow through with your plans. Talk is cheap, and actions speak louder than words. Make a point of living up to your promises and remaining true to yourself. Compassion, understanding and fair play will help you maintain your position and meaningful relationships. Don't make unnecessary waves; stay calm and focused on your target. Your numbers are 2, 14, 20, 28, 31, 36, 42.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Lean into whatever you want to do with force. Make your presence felt and command attention, and you'll enlist the help of qualified people to pitch in and turn your plan into something worthwhile. Love and romance are favored, and personal improvement is apparent. ★★★★★

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Don't underestimate the extent of a job or let anger set you back. The simpler your plans, the easier to get others on board. Home improvements or expenses must remain within budget. Consider revisions and finish what you start. ★★

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Step up and use your talents to get ahead of the competition. Face a challenge head-on, and refuse to let anyone take over or interfere with your progress. Dominate the stage by using your intellect and insight. 5 stars

CANCER (June 21-July 22): For help, contact an expert or someone reliable. Once you find out what's needed to reach your goal, you'll find it easy to put a plan in place

that meets your criteria. A unique approach will attract attention. ★★★★★

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Put your heart, not your cash, into whatever you pursue, and something good will transpire. A partnership or pulling in someone with skills you lack to pick up the slack will make a difference in the outcome. Sharing expenses is favored. ★★★★★

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): An open mind will lead to information that inspires you to go after your dreams. A change of attitude or direction looks promising if you stick to a budget. Refuse to let anyone talk you into something you don't need or want. ★★★★★

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Participate in something that will help increase your awareness or qualifications. What you learn will distinguish you from anyone trying to outmaneuver you. Don't underestimate a situation; honesty and sticking to a workable timetable and plan will work in your favor. ★★★★★

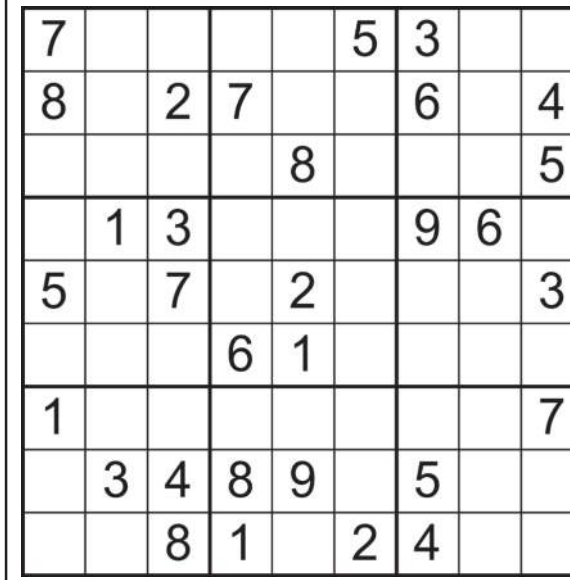
SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Attend a reunion or function that brings you in contact with people who share similar interests. Control your emotions when discussing lifestyle changes or where or how you live. Let your intuition lead the way and you will come out on top. ★★

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Conversations will lead to confusion. Don't hesitate to ask questions and verify information you receive. Adjust anything that doesn't fit your agenda before implementing your desired changes. A partnership will give you financial wiggle room. ★★★★★

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green



Difficulty: ★★★ 6/8
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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.



WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

ATHERTON, CALIFORNIA Solution: 8 letters

E D F R I E N D S E N S S H P
N X E G G E L C I W S S I O R
D E P G V A Y C O E E Q N U I
R M Z E O N H T I Z A U N S C
O U T N N L E T I O S A E E E
F S W R E S I D E N T S T R Y
N E A R T R I A M E U H N I E
A U S A B S O V K R A M O A L
T M T E C O L L E G E C M N L
S E L H A N E D Y O L L L O U
S E O L N E M T T E A U E I C
C O M I L L I O N S N B B L C
L W E A L T H L U A E R A L M
F O U N D A T I O N C I V I C
G N I M M I W S C O S E L B Y

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Area, Belmont, Billionaires, Celebrities, Civic, Clegg, Club, College, Community, County, DeGolia, East, Eichler, Estates, Expensive, Foundation, Friends, House, Lane, Lloyd, Lorenzen, Mark, McCulley, Menlo, Millions, Museum, Pricy, Residents, School, Selby, Silo, Squash, Stanford, Steven, Swimming, Tennis, Town, Wealth, West, Zone
Yesterday's Answer: Chocolate
To purchase WONDERWORD books, visit www.WonderWordBooks.com, or call 1-800-642-6460. (In Canada, call 1-855-232-2367)

PGA Tour, European tour agree to merge with LIV Golf

By DOUG FERGUSON
AP GOLF WRITER



The PGA Tour abruptly dropped its expensive fight with Saudi Arabia's LIV Golf venture on Tuesday and instead announced a stunning merger that creates a global operation featuring the world's top players backed by the Saudis' massive wealth.

As part of the deal merging the PGA Tour and European tour with Saudi Arabia's golf interests, the sides immediately are dropping all lawsuits involving LIV Golf.

From the golf side, still to be determined is how players like Brooks Koepka and Dustin Johnson can rejoin the PGA Tour after defecting last year for signing bonuses reported to be in the \$150 million range.

From the commercial side, the governor of Saudi Arabia's sovereign wealth fund joins the PGA Tour board of directors and leads the new business venture as chairman, though the PGA Tour will have a majority stake.

News of the deal came as a surprise to many watchers of the lawsuits and Saudi Arabia's inroads into U.S. politics, sports and culture.

"This is a huge development and obviously upends a world of golf, which has been perhaps more tradition-bound in the past," said Kristian Ulrichsen, a Middle East fellow at Houston's Baker Institute.

Under Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, Saudi Arabia's sovereign wealth fund has made a point of seeking out investments, like LIV, where it could shake up existing industries, Ulrichsen said.

"That's sort of one of their mantras, is to try to be disruptive and to take on the status quo," he said. "And in this case, they seem to have succeeded."

The announcement comes a year after LIV Golf began. PGA Tour Commissioner Jay Monahan was at the Cana-



Team champions David Puig, Sebastián Muñoz, Mito Pereira, Captain Joaquín Niemann of Torque GC and their caddies celebrate on stage with the team trophy during LIV Golf DC at the Trump National Golf Club in Washington Sunday, May 28, 2023.

dian Open that week and said pointedly about any player who joined LIV or was thinking about it: "Have you ever had to apologize for being a member of the PGA Tour?"

Now they are partners, giving Saudi Arabia a commercial voice in golf's premier organization.

"I recognize everything I've said in the past. I recognize people will call me a hypocrite," Monahan said in a conference call Tuesday evening. "Any time I've said anything, I've said it with the information I had, and I said it with someone trying to compete with our tour and our players."

Most PGA Tour players were bewildered by the shocking turnaround. It didn't help that a news outlet broke the embargoed announcement before Monahan could send a memo to the players. Most learned of the development on social media.

"I love finding out about morning news on Twitter," two-time major champion Collin Morikawa tweeted.

Many were not happy. Wes-

ley Bryan tweeted, "I feel betrayed, and will not ... be able to trust anyone within the corporate structure of the PGA Tour for a very long time."

Byeong Hun An added on Twitter: "I'm guessing the liv teams were struggling to get sponsors and pga tour couldn't turn down the money. Win-win for both tours but it's a big lose for who defended the tour for last two years."

"They were going down their path, we were going down ours, and after a lot of introspection you realize all this tension in the game is not a good thing," Monahan said in a phone interview with The Associated Press.

"We have a responsibility to our tour and to the game, and we felt like the time was right to have that conversation."

Monahan held a player meeting at the Canadian Open, though most top players are not there. He described the meeting as "intense, certainly heated."

And while this likely will only lead to greater riches in golf, there still was explaining to do on why the tour would

merge with a group that tried to take away some of the PGA Tour's best players and was seen as the latest example of "sportswashing."

The deal was in the works for the last seven weeks, when Monahan first met with Yasir Al-Rumayyan, governor of the Public Investment Fund. Players typically approve changes to the schedule and other competition matters. On this one, they were left out.

"No one had word of this," Monahan said. "Our players expect us to operate in the best interests of the tour."

Instead, he cited guidance from corporate members of the PGA Tour board.

Still, Monahan has his toughest work ahead of him.

He sought loyalty from his players against a league accused of taking part in sportswashing, an attempt by Saudi Arabia to shift focus away from its human rights abuses, such as the 2018 killing of journalist Jamal Khashoggi.

Now the very group that posed such a threat is the commercial partner of the PGA

Tour and European tour.

"The divisiveness is now over, and two years of disruption and distractions ... is over and now we can concentrate on building our respective tours," said Keith Pelley, CEO of the European tour. "And we are building it with PIF, who is clearly committed to the game."

Along the way, PGA Tour players also got rich. The tour raised prize money at elite events to \$20 million, the same purse for LIV's individual competition. The 2024 schedule has been reshaped for roughly 16 tournaments like that.

"In the short term, I expect a lot of questions and criticism," Monahan said. "In the long run, players who stayed with the PGA Tour will see they benefited in many ways."

The agreement combines the Public Investment Fund's golf-related commercial businesses and rights — including LIV Golf — with those of the PGA and European tours. The new entity has not been named.

Al-Rumayyan will join the board of the PGA Tour, which continues to operate its tournaments. The PIF will invest in the commercial venture.

"From the very beginning, the whole initiative was how to grow the game of golf," Al-Rumayyan said. "And I think what was achieved today was exactly that."

Augusta National and the Royal & Ancient welcomed the news because it ends a bitter feud. Augusta National said the deal "represents a positive development in bringing harmony to men's professional golf." R&A CEO Martin Slumbers said it would help golf "move forward in a collaborative, constructive and innovative fashion."

As for the new role of Greg Norman, Al-Rumayyan said only that Norman is LIV Golf's commissioner and details of his future role would be announced in the coming weeks.

Monahan's memo to play-

ers indicated a strong Saudi Arabian presence. He said PIF would make a financial investment to become a "premier corporate sponsor" of the PGA Tour, the European tour and other international tours.

The PIF initially will be the exclusive investor in the new entity and will have the exclusive right to further invest, including a right of first refusal on any capital that may be invested.

Al-Rumayyan has been spotted wearing a "MAGA" hat during LIV events at courses owned by former President Donald Trump.

Trump predicted last July that a merger was inevitable and said anyone not signing with the Saudi league would be losing out. He weighed in Tuesday and called it a "glamorous deal for the wonderful world of golf."

Monahan said the merger came together the last seven weeks, with PGA Tour board member Jimmy Dunne responsible for bringing together Monahan and Al-Rumayyan. Dunne and Ed Herlihy, chairman of the PGA Tour's board, will serve on the board of the commercial venture.

Phil Mickelson and Bryson DeChambeau were among 11 players who filed an antitrust lawsuit against the PGA Tour last August. LIV joined as plaintiffs, and the PGA Tour countersued.

The concern for PIF was whether its leaders could be deposed, which Saudi Arabia wanted to avoid. Being open to depositions would leave the kingdom's leaders more vulnerable to legal action, including lawsuits demanding they reveal business deals in the United States.

A federal judge had ruled the PIF could not claim immunity from the Foreign Service Immunity Act because of its commercial work with LIV Golf in the U.S.

The PIF appealed the ruling to the Ninth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, which was likely to extend the lawsuit deep into 2024 if not longer.



PARIS (AP)—Novak Djokovic, in his words, felt "quite sluggish, quite slow" for nearly two full sets against Karen Khachanov in the the French Open quarterfinals Tuesday.

Afterward, Djokovic called it his worst stretch of the tournament, a fair assessment. He dropped the opening set, something he hadn't done at Roland Garros this year. As the second went to a tiebreaker in Court Philippe Chatrier, he knew it was vital to step up his game, bring forth his best.

It's one thing to seek perfec-

Djokovic perfect in key tiebreaker now faces No. 1 Alcaraz next

tion; it's another entirely to deliver. As if merely wanting so made it so, Djokovic did what he's done before at crucial moments over the years en route to 22 Grand Slam titles.

Managing to choose the right shot every time, managing to put each ball precisely where he intended, Djokovic threw a shutout of a tiebreaker to point himself toward what would become a 4-6, 7-6 (0), 6-2, 6-4 victory over the 11th-seeded Khachanov.

Djokovic, who will meet No. 1 Carlos Alcaraz in a much-an-

ticipated semifinal Friday, found one word to describe that segment of the match: "Amazing."

Alcaraz beat Djokovic on clay at the Madrid Masters last year in their only previous encounter, and the 20-year-old from Spain got past No. 5 Stefanos Tsitsipas 6-2, 6-1, 7-6 (5) on Tuesday night.

"Since the draw came out, everyone was expecting that match—the semifinal against Novak. Myself, as well. I really want to play that match," Alcaraz said. "Since last year, I really wanted to play

again against Novak."

No. 2 seed Aryna Sabalenka and unseeded Karolina Muchova both reached the women's semifinals by winning earlier in the day. Sabalenka, the reigning champion at the Australian Open, eliminated Elina Svitolina 6-4, 6-4, then appeared at a news conference for the first time in nearly a week. Muchova defeated 2021 runner-up Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova 7-5, 6-2.

How does Djokovic approach a tiebreaker?

"It's kind of a mentality of

(locking down): 'OK, I'm present, I'm focused only on the next point and I have to really think clearly about what I want to do against ... a given opponent. It worked really well for me,'" said Djokovic, a 36-year-old from Serbia who has spent more weeks ranked No. 1 than anyone in his sport's history and is currently No. 3. "It worked really well for me."

Well, there's an understatement.

"Every point was perfectly scripted for me, so to say. Yeah, sometimes it works;

sometimes it doesn't," he said. "I was lucky that, throughout my career, I have a very good and positive score in the tiebreaks. My opponents know that, and I know that. So, I think, mentally that serves me well."

Indeed, he is 307-162, a winning percentage of .655, in those set-deciders now played at 6-all at every major. In 2023, it's 14-4, including 5-0 in Paris. And get this: Those tiebreakers at the 2023 French Open have been comprised of 47 total points—and he has made a grand total of zero unforced errors.

Hendriks gets 1st save since cancer as Giolito, White Sox top Yankees



NEW YORK

(AP) —

Liam Hendriks earned his first save since returning from cancer, Lucas Giolito pitched six hitless innings and the Chicago White Sox beat the New York Yankees 3-2 on Tuesday night for their season-high fourth straight victory.

Isiah Kiner-Falefa ended Chicago's combined no-hit bid with a two-out RBI double in the seventh off reliever Joe Kelly on a ball that fell between center fielder Luis Robert Jr. and left fielder Andrew Benintendi, allowing Willie Calhoun to score.

REDS 9, DODGERS 8

CINCINNATI (AP)—Matt McLain singled to deep center to cap a three-run ninth-inning rally, and Cincinnati beat Los Angeles.

Trailing 8-6 with one out in the ninth, Cincinnati loaded the bases against Caleb Ferguson (3-1), who then walked one batter and hit another, allowing the Reds to tie it. Shelby Miller gave up McLain's game-ending hit as Cincinnati snapped its nine-game losing streak against the Dodgers.

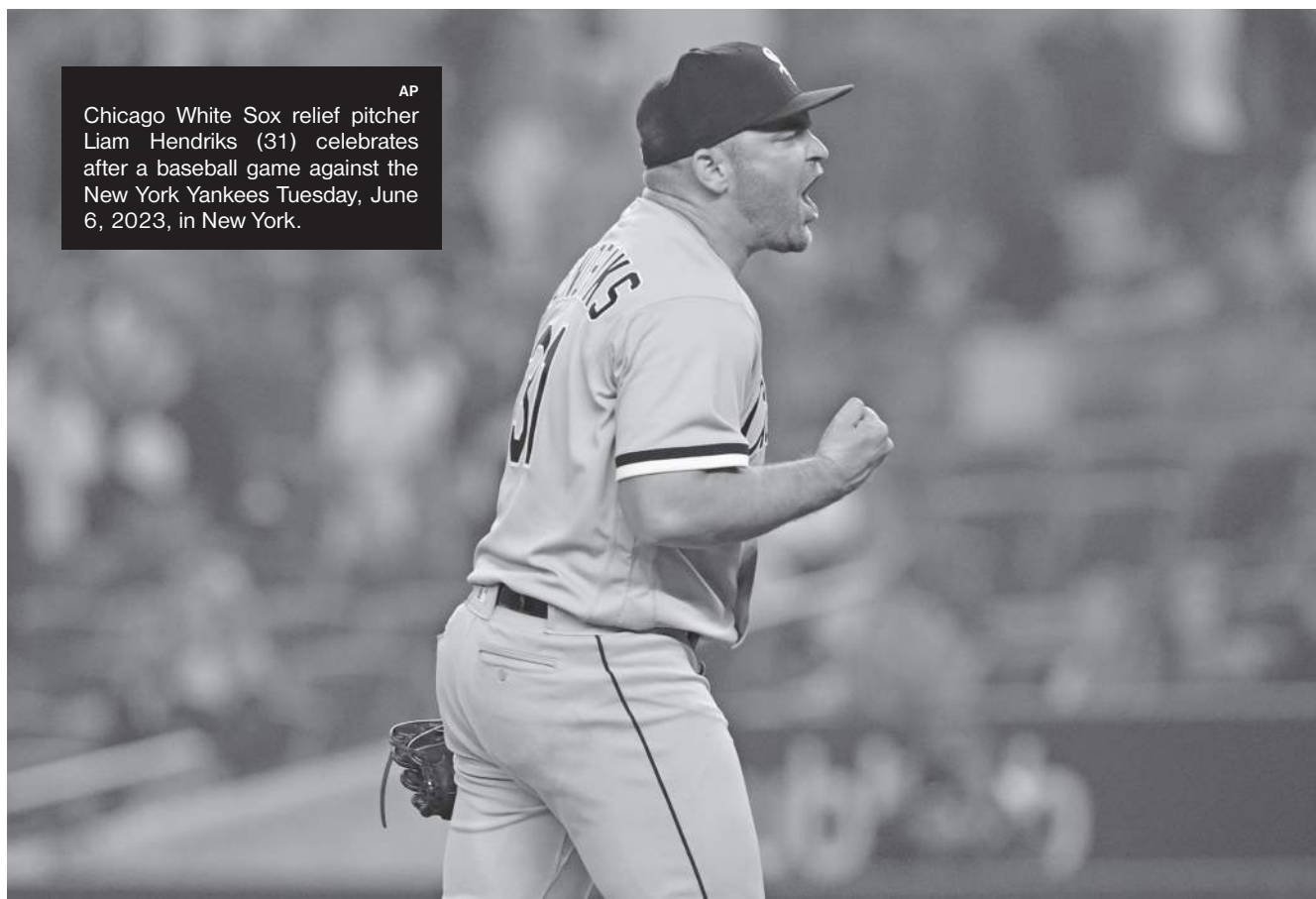
MARLINS 6, ROYALS 1

MIAMI (AP)—Luis Arraez had two hits to raise his major league-leading batting average to .401 as Miami beat Kansas City.

Second in the NL East, the Marlins have won five straight to improve to 34-28 — the first time they've been six games over .500 since August 2016.

RANGERS 6, CARDINALS 4

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP)—Marcus Semien had a go-ahead double to extend his majors-best hitting streak



AP
Chicago White Sox relief pitcher Liam Hendriks (31) celebrates after a baseball game against the New York Yankees Tuesday, June 6, 2023, in New York.

to 25 games, Dane Dunning (5-1) won again and AL West-leading Texas beat St. Louis.

Nathaniel Lowe and Adolis Garcia hit solo homers for the Rangers (40-20), who have won five straight.

ATHLETICS 11, PIRATES 2

PITTSBURGH (AP)—Jace Peterson homered twice on a five-hit night and drove in five runs, and Oakland beat Pittsburgh to snap a 15-game road losing streak.

The major league-worst A's (13-50) broke open the game late behind Peterson, whose RBI single off Pirates ace Mitch Keller put Oakland ahead 3-2 in the sixth. Peterson gave Oakland a five-run lead with a two-run homer off Chase De Jong in the eighth, then added another two-run shot off De Jong in the ninth.

ANGELS 7, CUBS 4

ANAHEIM, Calif. (AP)—Mike Trout and Matt Thaiss delivered two-run singles off Brandon Hughes (0-3) during the Angels' five-run fifth inning, Shohei Ohtani hit his 16th homer and Los Angeles beat Chicago.

Taylor Ward also homered for the Angels, who overcame an early 4-0 deficit.

PHILLIES 1, TIGERS 0

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Kyle Schwarber hit a lead-off homer, Taijuan Walker threw seven scoreless innings and Philadelphia won its fourth straight.

Walker (5-3) allowed two hits, Seranthony Dominguez worked the eighth and Craig Kimbrel completed the three-hitter, striking out the side in order for his ninth

save in as many chances.

BLUE JAYS 5, ASTROS 1

TORONTO (AP)—Kevin Gausman matched his career high by striking out 13 over seven innings, George Springer, Bo Bichette and Daulton Varsho all homered, and Toronto beat Houston.

Gausman (5-3) gave up a leadoff homer to Mauricio Dubón on his second pitch but recovered to hold the Astros in check and win his third straight start.

BREWERS 4, ORIOLES 3, 10 INNINGS

MILWAUKEE (AP)—Joey Wiemer hit a game-ending single with two outs in the 10th inning off Austin Voth (1-2) as Milwaukee rallied past Baltimore.

The Brewers moved one-

half game ahead of Pittsburgh in the NL Central.

RAYS 7, TWINS 0

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. (AP)—Zach Eflin pitched into the seventh inning, Luke Raley tripled and homered, and major league-best Tampa Bay beat AL Central-leading Minnesota.

Eflin (8-1) allowed three hits and struck out nine over 6 2/3 innings.

BRAVES 6, METS 4

ATLANTA (AP)—Orlando Arcia drove in the go-ahead run in a four-run sixth as Atlanta beat New York.

Francisco Lindor and Pete Alonso hit two-run homers in the third, but Bryce Elder (4-0) regrouped with three scoreless innings and New York (30-31) lost its fourth straight, matching a season high.

RED SOX 5, GUARDIANS 4

CLEVELAND (AP)—Rob Refsnyder had the go-ahead RBI single in a four-run eighth inning, James Paxton tied his season high with nine strikeouts, and Boston beat Cleveland.

Kiké Hernández drove in two runs and Masataka Yoshida had three hits for the Red Sox, who put their first six batters on base in the eighth against relievers Enyel De Los Santos (2-1) and Nick Sandlin.

DIAMONDBACKS 10, NATIONALS 5

WASHINGTON (AP)—Pavin Smith homered and drove in three runs as Arizona rallied against Washington's beleaguered bullpen.

Josh Rojas also had three RBIs for Arizona, which moved ahead of Los Angeles for the NL West lead. The Diamondbacks (36-25) have won seven of nine.

MARINERS 4, PADRES 1

SAN DIEGO (AP)—Logan Gilbert pitched seven strong innings, Teoscar Hernández and Julio Rodríguez homered and Seattle beat San Diego to snap a three-game skid.

Gilbert (4-3) allowed one run and three hits. Paul Sewald pitched a scoreless ninth for his 12th save.

GIANTS 10, ROCKIES 4

DENVER (AP)—Giants rookie Patrick Bailey had three hits, all for extra bases, and San Francisco was bolstered by the return of Joc Pederson and Thairo Estrada from the injured list in a victory over Colorado.

Estrada doubled twice and had an RBI single. Pederson singled and scored in a five-run fifth inning that broke the game open.

Game 3 awaits, with Heat loose and Nuggets facing adversity



MIAMI

(AP)—Erik Spoelstra

has preached about the value of adversity for months, not shying away from saying that it helped the Miami Heat get to these NBA Finals.

And now Denver is dealing with a little taste of it as well.

Game 3 of the NBA Finals is Wednesday night in Miami, the series between the eighth-seeded Heat and top-seeded Nuggets knotted at a game apiece. It got that way after Miami rallied to win Game 2 in Denver 111-108 on Sunday night, an outcome that prompted Nuggets coach Michael Malone to openly share frustrations — primarily over a lack of discipline on a lot of possessions.

"We had a really good film session this morning," Malone said Tuesday. "I gave an opportunity for everybody on our team to speak and talk about what they saw on the film. It was a very honest conversation. Guys owned what they needed to own. We have to learn from Game 2 to use it to our advantage."

In other words, Denver needs to do what Miami did coming out of Game 1.

The Heat faced significant deficits in both games in Denver—24 points in Game 1 and 15 points in Game 2. And while there was a comeback try in the opener, getting within nine late, the Heat managed to erase the whole deficit and then some in Game 2.

"You're in the finals," said

Spoelstra, seeking his third championship as coach of the Heat. "You're going to be dealing with great players, great teams. You have to find a way to overcome it and make it difficult and do a lot of things that are tough."

Wednesday's winner obviously gets the upper hand with a 2-1 series lead, and history will tip in that team's favor as well. When a finals is tied 1-1, the Game 3 winner has gone on to eventually claim the title 80% of the time (32 times in 40 past instances). And 2-1 series leaders, regardless of whether they won Game 3 or not, have taken the title 79% of the time (49 times in 62 past instances).

The Heat are in the finals for the second time in four seasons, but are playing their

first finals game actually at home since 2014 — the 2020 appearance was in the bubble, with no fans in the buildings for most of that experience and only a few family members for the finals.

"No matter what, they are going to be behind you," Heat guard Kyle Lowry said. "They are going to give you energy. You know, if the other team is on the run, they are going to give you a little boost. If you're on a run, there's going to be a crazy boost. The overall energy for your team and your group, it will give you a little bit of a lift — but it won't win you the game, because you've still got to go out there and hoop."

Hooping at the end of games hasn't been an issue for Miami in this series. The Heat

are outscoring Denver 66-45 in fourth quarters in this series, shooting 64% to the Nuggets' 44% in the final period and holding a 33-9 edge in points off 3-pointers.

But the first three quarters, they've trended big-time toward Denver. The Nuggets have outscored Miami 167-138 in those periods, outshooting the Heat 53% to 39%. Miami has outscored Denver 57-48 on 3s in those quarters, but that's nothing like the unmanageable margin the Nuggets have dealt with in final quarters.

"Just don't get them wide-open looks," said Denver's Nikola Jokic, who is averaging 34 points, 10.5 rebounds and nine assists in his first two finals games. "Yes, we know they're going to score. Yes, we know they have talented players. But we cannot

give them open looks, and that was the main key."

There wasn't a lot of worry coming from either side Tuesday, when the teams had to go through the obligatory public workouts as part of the NBA media off-day slate. The Nuggets were loose, smiling a lot. The Heat were doing much of the same.

Moods will change by the end of Wednesday night. One of the teams — either the big pre-finals favorite Nuggets, or the eighth-seeded, nothing-to-lose Heat — is going to be two wins away from a title.

"When we're working we still like to have fun and keep it loose," Heat forward Kevin Love said. "It keeps us loose out there on the court starting the game and throughout 48 minutes. But it's not without intention and the willingness to do whatever it takes."

Slow Pitch Open Budweiser BASA League this July



LEIGH GASES
The Budweiser Belau Amateur Softball Association is calling teams to register for their Slow Pitch Open League this July. File photo shows a Sufa first baseman getting a Redmen batter out during their playoff game of the 2023 BASA men's league last Sunday at the Dan-Dan Softball Field.

By LEIGH GASES
leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



The Budweiser Belau Amateur Softball Association is calling teams to register for their Slow Pitch Open League.

The tournament is set to start on July 9, 2023 and will

last until December.

The league will be limited to 14 teams and will be a single round-robin tournament.

Age requirement is set at 18 years old and over. To reserve a spot, pay a \$450 registration fee or half of it.

It is a first-come, first-serve basis.

Contact BASA vice president McQueen Masaharu at

(670) 286-6225, or president Leo Bobai at (670) 285-3426.

BASA's 2023 men's and women's division league is currently ongoing. The men's division is in the playoff rounds, while the women's division is in the championship round between the Lady Blue Jays and the Hot Shots. Catch the action on Sundays at the DanDan Softball Field.

MACARIO

From Page 20

just being able to meet players from all around the world is eye-opening enough. Apart from playing against high-level opponents, I'm glad I can watch real high-intensity games that I usually only see on YouTube. Additionally, it gives me a chance to observe different techniques that I hope to master one day," said Manuel.

Other NMI players who played on Tuesday were Ian Lubao who played against Australian Nathan Tang and lost, 4-21, 5-21; Paulo Quidato who lost to Chinese-Taipei's Cheng-Han Tsai, 6-21, 4-21; and Daniell Pablo lost to Shashwat Dalal, 21-4, 21-3. Brian Lubao advanced via forfeit.

In one close and exciting match between Malaysia's Eveshgaran Vasigaran and Belgium's Elias Bracke, Vasigaran was overpowered by Bracke's hard hits and well-placed returns.

Bracke overpowered Vasigaran in the first set, 21-12, but Vasigaran came back in a close second set, 18-21 as Bracke made some crucial mistakes—but Brack returned with a vengeance in the third set and won

the match, 21-11.

The 24-year-old Vasigaran was seen after the game and in an interview said "the game was good, but I didn't get adjusted to the court, as my opponent adjusted to the court faster than me, so he had the upper hand and advantage in keeping the ball in the court."

As for his second set comeback win, he said "I was better than him in certain areas, but he's better than me in keeping the ball in. So the final game was whoever kept the ball in, they won. My errors were mostly outside, I kept hitting the outside because I wanted to kill him so bad[ly], but he had more patience and he was better today."

When asked how the court was, he said "the arena was challenging because the court is small. The shadow is faster here—there are a lot of factors, but you know, if you're good—doesn't matter what the factors are, you'll still win, so, I think I have a lot to learn."

Vasigaran is currently ranked No. 184 in the world and is looking forward to the rest of the games in the qualifiers. At his young age, he said that he felt pressured coming into the qualifiers because he had just finished another tour-

namment last month, but hopes to come out victorious in his other matches.

In other matches that day, Japan's Hina Osawa lost to South Korea's Ruo Hsuan Ko, 13-21, 15-21; Chen Chi Ting won against Ricky Tang, 21-11, 21-6; Yang Yang won in three sets to Son Wan Ho, 21-15, 10-21, 21-18; Max Weisskirchen lost to South Korea's Jeon Hyeok Jin, 15-21, 8-21; Nguyen Hai Dang Lin Yu Hsien 21-13, 13-21, 22-24; Australia's Jacob Schueler lost to Canada's Victor Lai, 21-18, 11-21, 11-21; Japan's Misaki Kurashima lost to South Korea's Park Ga Eun, 11-21, 8-21; Japan's Takuma Obayashi won against Jia Heng Jason Teh, 21-16, 22-10; Canada's Xiaodong Sheng won in a close match against Chinese Taipei's Ting Yen-Chen, 19-21, 19-21; Shih Kuan-Chih of Chinese Taipei won against Raymond Sing, 21-9, 21-10; South Korean Lee Yun Gyu won against Chinese Taipei's Liu Wei Chi, 15-21, 21-15, 22-20; Jack Yu lost to Yushi Tanaka 11-21, 13-21; Garret Tan lost to Jia Wei Joel Koh 9-21, 18-21; Hsieh Chih Ying won against Ying Tse 21-10, 21-9; Yuan Chi Liao lost to Kim Ga Ram 11-21, 13-21; Cho Geonyeop won over Shun Saito 21-12, 21-11; Koo Taka-



LEIGH GASES
NMI's Leonard Manuel is seen in his match against Chinese-Taipei's Chung-Hsiang Yih in the Crowne Plaza Northern Marianas Open 2023 last Tuesday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.



LEIGH GASES
Belgium's Elias Bracke charges the net in the Crowne Plaza Northern Marianas Open 2023 last Tuesday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

BLUE

From Page 20

19 points, while Barrios and Guiab added 14 points apiece.

Ashburn burned the hoops for 27 points, but had little help outside the 11 markers of Joel Javier.

Blue Eagle now faces Ol'Aces for the second finals spot in the 40-and-over league after the Oleai team beat top seed A's Car Aircon, 81-73.

Sen. Dennis Mendiola (R-Rota) turned back the hands of time leading Ol'Aces with 22 points, while Ben Pelisamen more than made up for the absence of his suspended brother, Freddie, by punching in 21 markers.

Cecilia Bisana was impressive in the loss against Ol'Aces, leading A's Car Aircon with 18 points, while Edmundo Basi chipped in 16 markers. Sniper Bernard Montano struggled all game long and wound up with a paltry 8 points.

The SCLC league resumed last night with Martech-Ol'Aces taking on The Game for the last finals spot in the open division, while the Ol'Aces-Blue Eagle semifinals is set for tonight.

First Game

Ol'Aces 81 — Mendiola 22, Pelisamen 21, Libuw 16,

George 8, Iginoef 9, Rangamar 4, D. Joab 1.

A's Car Aircon 73 — Bisana 18, Basi 16, De Guzman 13, D. Tibayan 9, Montano 8, Fundador 6, Pangelinan 2, Manabat 1.

Scoring by quarters: 25-17, 50-41, 68-57, 81-73.

Second Game

Blue House 76 — Esdre-

lon 19, Barrios 14, Guiab 14, Lauron 10, Diaz 7, Aitogue 4, Berline 3, Santos 3, De Dios 2.

Blue Eagle/Royal Pacific 67 — Ashburn 27, Javier 11, Reign 8, Jandoc 7, Estolas 7, Villarin 4, Mendiola 3.

Scoring by quarters: 19-16, 35-35, 57-49, 76-67.



MARK RABAGO
Ol'Aces center Dennis Mendiola attempts a 3-pointer against the defense of A's Car Aircon's Cecilia Bisana as Jorge De Guzman looks on in their masters division game in the 2nd Annual Saipan Centennial Lions Basketball League last Tuesday night at the Civic Center Basketball Court.

hashi defeated Chen Shao-Hsuan 21-13, 21-10; Keith Mark Edison was defeated by Lee Dong Keun 7-21, 11-21; Chen Yu Cheng lost to Choi Pyeong Gang 15-21, 16-21; and Lei Ci Fu lost to Riku Hatano 15-21, 16-21.

Today's games are from 12pm to 9pm; and Friday

is from 1pm to 9pm. Semis matches on Saturday will be from 1pm to 9pm, while finals in the men's and women's singles and men's, women's, and mixed doubles are slated for Sunday, June 11, from 12pm to 5pm. The same schedule will be in effect for the TakeCare Saipan International 2023.

JUNIOR

From Page 20

als pitcher Angelo Igitol and J.P. Sablan. They were shut down in the first four innings as only one batter, Angel Palacios, got on base from balls.

The Junior Nationals had a no hitter through the fifth inning until Jose Lizama hit an RBI single to tie up the game, 1-1. Back on the bat for the Junior Nationals, Borja hit a double and was brought home by an RBI single off Jylon Sablan.

J.R. Suel reached base on a Bears fielding error and came home for their third run that inning for a 4-1 game. The Junior

Nationals tried to add more runs in the last two innings, but Bears pitcher J.J. Lizama struck out the side, walked two batters, but held them off.

The Junior Nationals didn't need more runs, however, as the Bears were only able to score one more off an RBI single by Henry Lizama Jr.

The postponed games start from May 23 between the Bandits and Junior Nationals, Cardinals versus Falcons (May 24), Bears versus Braves (May 25), Natives versus Blue Jays (May 26), Junior Nationals versus Braves (May 30), Falcons versus Natives (May 31), and Brewers versus Comets (June 2).



PGA Tour,
European tour
agree to merge
with LIV Golf.

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Saipan Tribune Sports

Slow Pitch Open
Budweiser BASA
League this July.

PAGE 19



20 THURSDAY, JUNE 8, 2023

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Macario hands NMI's 1st win in Olympic qualifier



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

NMI's Daniel Macario advanced to the second round after he handed the NMI its first win in the Crowne Plaza Northern Marianas Open 2023 last Tuesday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

The first badminton 2024 Paris Olympics qualifier in the CNMI, the Crowne Plaza Northern Marianas Open 2023, got underway at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium with the first round of matches starting Tuesday afternoon.

The CNMI's badminton players have the opportunity to play against the world's best and even as only Daniel Macario won on the first day, they know it's the experience and effort that counts.

Macario defeated Guam's Chen Yang Hu in two sets, 21-13, 21-11.

On his win, Macario said "I'm really glad I was able to secure a win for the NMI." Macario has seen Chen before and he said he knew he would not go easy against him. "I really prepared for the singles game and gave it my all to secure the win. Before the match I was able to talk to Chen, and he told me 'let's have

a good game." I gave it my best, he gave it his best, and I was happy to share the court with and take the victory," said Macario. "Chen definitely will get better and I look forward to challenging him in the future," added Macario.

For Leonard Manuel, who went up against Chinese-Taipei's Chung-Hsiang Yih and lost, 8-21, 1-21, he said, "it took some time to get used to playing in Ada Gym, seeing as we usually train at the TSL courts. Despite the outcome, I'm grateful to have played and will use this loss to better develop my game."

"As for the experience, See **MACARIO** on Page 19



LEIGH GASES

Malaysia's Eveshgaran Vasigaran returns a serve from Belgium's Elias Bracke in the Crowne Plaza Northern Marianas Open 2023 last Tuesday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium Tuesday afternoon

Blue Haus advances to masters finals

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR



Blue Haus pulled away from Blue Eagle/Royal Pacific in the second half to book the first finals ticket in the masters division of the 2nd Annual Saipan Centennial Lions Basketball League with a 76-67 win last Tuesday night at the Civic Center Basketball Court.

In a battle of nearly same name teams, Blue Haus and Blue Eagles were tied seven times in the first half before the latter got some wiggle room in the third quarter.

Blue Haus took the first quarter, 19-16, following a late 3-pointer from Junar Guiab.

However, Blue Eagle responded with gusto in the second quarter with Andrew Ashburn firing 8 points as both teams were tied at the half, 35-all.

Blue Haus took the bull by the horns at the start of the second half and got contributions



MARK RABAGO

Blue Haus's Alex Lauron goes up for a fastbreak layup as teammate Bruce Berline trails on the play in their masters division game against Blue Eagle in the 2nd Annual Saipan Centennial Lions Basketball League last Tuesday night at the Civic Center Basketball Court.

» Ol'Aces sets up do-or-die vs Blue Eagle

from up and down the roster and as a result opened up a 57-49 lead going into the fourth and final quarter.

Both teams started the pay-off period unable to hit the broadside of a barn with Blue Haus' full-court pressure and man-to-man defense exacting a toll on Blue Eagle's offensive sets. The latter's size, meanwhile, bothered the former on its forays toward the basket.

Then back-to-back triples by J.R. Barrios with 6:49 left in the match shoved Blue Haus to a 64-49 lead.

Blue Eagle retaliated with a 14-6 run to whittle down Blue Haus' advantage to 70-63, but Tony Diaz got away with a fastbreak layup to make it 72-63 with time down to 1:29 and that was all she wrote.

Veteran point guard Elmer Esdreton led Blue Haus with

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Junior Nationals roar past CK Bears, 4-2

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER



The Junior Nationals roared past the CK Bears, 4-2, in the return of the 2023 Tan Holdings-Saipan Baseball League season Tuesday night at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Baseball Field.

After about a two-week postponement due to the passing of Typhoon Mawar

and illumination issues on the field, the season resumed with the youngsters of the NMI Junior National team taking home the W.

Leadoff man Joell Borja of the Junior Nationals had a free pass to the base on four balls and was immediately brought home off an RBI single by Achilles Evangelista.

The CK Bears had no such luck in the offense department as they were dealt 13 strikeouts by Junior Nation-

See **JUNIOR** on Page 19



LEIGH GASES

The Junior Nationals' Angelo Igitol throws a warm-up pitch to his catcher during their game against the CK Bears in the 2023 Tan Holdings-Saipan Baseball League Tuesday night at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Baseball Field.